

Portfolio

£22,000 to be won

There is £22,000 to be won in today's *Times* Portfolio competition - the weekly £20,000 and the daily £2,000. Mr Michael Foster, a civil servant who lives in Copthorne, West Sussex, was the outright winner of yesterday's £2,000.

Portfolio list, page 26; week's gains and losses information service, back page.

US recruits Beirut gunmen

United States diplomats in Beirut have recruited Druze and Shia Muslim gunmen to guard their new Embassy offices, as the Marines complete their withdrawal from Lebanon. Marines and the US Navy fought the Druze and Shia Muslim militias last autumn. **Page 4**

Britain acts to calm markets

British National Oil Corporation - possibly on government orders - tried to calm financial and oil markets riddled by rumours of Opec's break-up with a consequent further weakening of prices. It said it is close to agreement with suppliers and customers keeping its market price unchanged **Page 21**

Cudlipp returns

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of Mirror Newspapers, has appointed as his consultant Lord Cudlipp, who was group chairman from 1963 to 1968. It was announced that Mr Douglas Long, deputy chairman, left the company yesterday.

Mason funeral

The funeral of James Mason, the actor who died in hospital in Lausanne after a heart attack, will be held on Tuesday. **Back page**

US warning

Mr Caspar Weinberger, US Defence Secretary, ruled out Vienna talks with the Russians if they insist on limiting discussions to space weapons. **Page 4**

Soviet attack

The Russians launched a blistering attack on West Germany, in a clear attempt to torpedo the visit to Bonn in September by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader. **Page 6**

Jaguar shares

Jaguar Cars shares sale at 165p a share for which applications have to be in next Friday is expected to be oversubscribed. **Family Money, page 25**

Travelsafeguard

After the collapse of Laker Airways, the Government has agreed to strengthen safeguards for air package holidaymakers whose tour company fails. **Page 3**

Spy claim study

A memorandum claiming that up to 300 Soviet spies operated in Britain is being studied by Sir Anthony Kershaw, MP, chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs. **Page 2**

Jacobs bows out

David Jacobs, the broadcaster, last night chaired BBC Radio's *Any Questions* for the last time after presenting the programme for nearly 17 years. **Page 3**

Island myths

Islanders say it was Greek sea captains rather than British soldiers who looted and burnt houses on Kastellorizo during the Second World War. **Page 5**

Action replay

Gordon Greenidge followed up his double century at Lord's with another at Old Trafford as the West Indies amassed 500 in the fourth Test. **Page 28**

Leader, page 9
Manpower planning for engineers: the Olympics; the national anthem
Letters: On bishops' appointments, from the Bishop of Oxford, and others; Ethiopia, from Rev R. Arguile, and Lord Hunt of Tanworth; museum charges, from Mr J. H. Morley
Obituary, page 10
Mr Philip Matthews
Calls to the Bar, page 25

Home News	23	Law Report	36
Overseas	4-6	Parliament	4
Arts	10	Religion	10
Books	6	Science	10
Business	21-26	Sport	27-30
Court	10	TV & Radio	31
Forecast	32	Universities	18
Events	32	Weather	32

Westminster fury at Europe's budget challenge

From Ian Murray in Brussels and Julian Haviland

The European Parliament yesterday threw down a dangerous challenge to Britain over the EEC budget.

Members voted 212 to 70 to hang on to the long overdue £457m rebate Britain has been promised for over a year in return for its excessive contributions to the Community in 1983.

The Parliament now says the money will only be handed over once there is agreement to a supplementary Community budget for 1984, which Britain alone insists is both unnecessary and illegal.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, called the action "contemptible". Mr Geoffrey Rippon, the Conservative MP who led the negotiations for British entry to the Community, said the Parliament's "pig-headed and foolish action" would be deplored by every true European.

A Foreign Office statement made it perfectly clear that the vote had not changed Britain's stance. It said: "There is no justification for the new Parliament attempting to impose further conditions for payment of the refund. The Parliament alone is standing in the way of payment. We expect the refunds to be paid."

Only the British present voted against as the Parliament refused to release the money it has been holding hostage since last December as a guarantee of Britain's good behaviour in the Community.

It originally froze the payment, agreed by the European

summit in Stuttgart in June last year, until there was an end to the argument over the Community budget. This was achieved in outline at the Fontainebleau summit last month, when Britain was granted a 66 per cent reduction in its net contributions against an undertaking to allow the

How rebate stayed frozen

June 1983: EEC agrees rebate. December: Strasbourg MEPs freeze rebate pending budget resolution.

March 1984: Budget deadlock at Brussels summit. June: Fontainebleau budget deal. July 12: Strasbourg committee releases rebate.

July 27: Parliament freezes it again.

legal ceiling on the Community's income to be raised. As far as a supplementary budget for 1984 is concerned the Foreign Office insists that "further detailed work needs to be done to identify savings and deferrals of payments. A solution to the common problem needs to be compatible with the treaties and the resources system."

In other words Britain still rejects the need for legality of a supplementary budget.

Conservative MEPs said the vote put at risk the entire agreement at the Fontainebleau summit. Lord Douns, the Conservative budget spokesman in the Parliament, said it was a "disgraceful decision" which made it impossible for there to be either a supplement-

tary budget or an increase in the Community's income.

He said the vote, carried with the wholesale support of the Christian Democrats, ended also the two-day-old centre-right alliance in the Parliament which had elected M. Pierre Piilimin as President against the sitting Socialist President, Mr Piet Dankert.

Mrs Barbara Castle, the Labour MEP, told the Parliament the House of Commons would now certainly refuse to accept an increase in the Community's resources.

Yesterday's vote came at the end of the first session of the newly-elected Parliament, during which the budget of the near-bankrupt Community had been condemned on all sides for refusing to lift its veto on the supplementary budget needed to cover an estimated shortfall of up to £1,200m this year.

Members complained that Britain was particularly selfish in view of the Fontainebleau agreement to cut its net contributions.

The British view, argued by Sir Geoffrey Howe during this week's foreign council meeting in Brussels, is that the House of Commons would never allow an increase in Community's resources if a supplementary budget were agreed. He argued that if the Community was allowed to spend more than its legal limit at this stage, there could be no guarantee it would not do the same thing in the future.

Continued on back page, col 6



Free man: Senior Aircraftman Paul Davies and his mother, Mrs Jean Davies yesterday.

£306m go-ahead for BR electrification

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

British Rail had its biggest boost for 25 years yesterday with Government approval for the £306m electrification of the East Coast main line from London to Leeds and Edinburgh.

However, Mr Bob Reid, BR's chairman, warned railwaymen not to jeopardize the project with disruptive action in support of the miners.

The long-awaited scheme - the biggest since West Coast electrification in the mid 1960s - will cut journey time by up to 15 minutes and improve comfort.

Routes which will benefit include Newcastle to Leeds and Bristol, Liverpool to Manchester and Hull and Glasgow to Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

The main benefit, however, is a saving of up to £60m a year in BR's operating costs as a result of the simpler, more flexible, and more economical electric trains compared with diesel.

The scheme will yield a 7 per cent return and will be financed within BR's external financial limits, either from internally

generated funds or borrowed money.

Approving it yesterday, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport said: "This is a very good scheme. It is fully justified on its financial merits and will give BR's customers a better service."

The National Union of Railwaymen also welcomed the scheme as "a step forward: the end of a chapter."

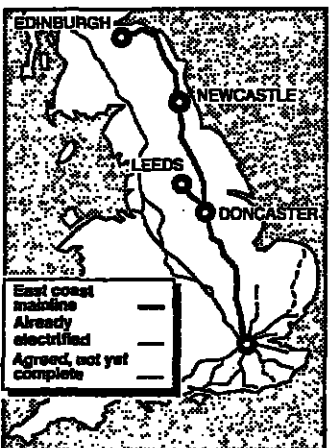
Work on the scheme will start this year with completion to Huntingdon - by 1987, Peterborough by 1988, Leeds by 1989 and Newcastle and Edinburgh in 1991. Both track and rolling stock will be put out to tender.

Mr Reid described it as a "momentous" decision and a clear signal for the long-term future of the railway industry in Britain.

"It is essential that we provide reliable services at all times, and to all railwaymen I must stress how essential it is that we avoid getting ourselves involved in other people's problems and driving them into the hands of our competitors."

Mr Reid said the cost strike had already cost BR £100m at about £5m a week and permanent loss of about £1m of freight business a year.

The main benefits of East Coast electrification, were reduction of maintenance costs for track and rolling stock of about 60 per cent; reduction in fuel costs of about 25 per cent; increased reliability of 50-70 per cent; and quieter and cleaner trains with new and more comfortable rolling stock. The new trains will not tilt, but will be an advance of present InterCity 125 stock in quality of seating, air-conditioning and general environment.



Libya withdraws team on eve of Olympics

By Our Foreign Staff

In an apparently tit-for-tat move, Libya has pulled out of the Olympic Games, which open in Los Angeles today.

The Libyan news agency, Jana, announced the withdrawal yesterday after the US State Department's decision to bar three Libyan journalists from entering the country to work at the Games.

Meanwhile weather forecasters predict damp, smoggy air for the opening day. Young people, the elderly and those

with respiratory problems were urged to stay indoors.

Two Soviet freighters have been denied permission to enter Los Angeles harbour until after the Games get underway.

The State Department said the cargo vessels had been informed that they had to wait until July 30 for clearance for national security reasons. It is not related to the Olympics.

Zola Budd, page 5
Leading article, page 9
Sport, page 27

20 fires started by steam train

From Our Correspondent, Bristol

An old steam train blazed a trail of destruction through two drought-affected counties during a trial run yesterday. The 1946 locomotive (left) started 20 heath and grass fires by the side of the track.

A convoy of fire engines tried to stop the fires, sparked off by embers and coals from the engine. But they were no match for the train, which was travelling at 40mph from Swindon, Wiltshire, to Bristol and back via Chippenham.

So county fire brigade chiefs in Wiltshire and Avon plotted the route of the engine from the 999 calls received from people living beside the track, and had

crew standing by at danger spots.

The most serious blaze was at Keynsham, near Bristol, where 10 fire engines and more than 80 men were called to tackle a blaze in two cornfields covering 90 acres.

Now British Rail fears that it may have to postpone day trips on the Pacific class "Clan Line" no. 35028 locomotive, at least until after the drought.

A fire brigade officer in Bristol said: "This train caused absolute chaos. Every time we put a fire out the train started another one further down the track."

"We just couldn't keep up

STC confident of bid victory despite setback

Standard Telephones and Cables is increasingly optimistic that its bid for control of ICL, Britain's largest independent computer manufacturer, will succeed despite the apparent setback yesterday of another sharp fall in its share price (Jeremy Warner writes).

Sir Kenneth Corfield, chairman of STC, a leading telecommunications equipment manufacturer, said he was hopeful that ICL directors would accept the logic of a merger and that an agreed outcome would be possible.

Details, page 21

Inside



The last word

The first publication of a D. H. Lawrence novel unknown for 50 years **Page 8**

The sport of kings

Michael Phillips previews King George VI and Queen Elizabeth stakes **Page 29**

The sport of princes

Tim Heald studies polo's pure pedigree and meets pukka chukkas **Page 11**



Monday

Test of character

John Woodcock on progress in the Fourth Test match



Macho man in focus

The fashion photographer changing the way we look at men

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Maternity leave law 'should be clearer'

Prompt action to draft clearer wording of the Law on maternity rights at work was called for by the Employment Appeal Tribunal yesterday.

To say that the present wording was "formidably confused" was perhaps an understatement, Mr Justice Waite, president of the tribunal, said.

He joined other judges who have criticized the "legislative labyrinth" through which working mothers have to thread in trying to understand their return-to-work and maternity pay rights.

The judge's remarks were made in a case in which the tribunal ruled that a working mother-to-be was entitled to full maternity leave pay, although her employers had stopped operating during her leave.

The court dismissed an appeal by the Secretary of State for Employment, Mr Tom King, challenging a victory won at an industrial tribunal in Brighton by Mrs Jillian Cox, aged 25, of Loxwood House, Middle Road, Lancing, West Sussex, who conducted her own case.

The judge said legal proceedings had become necessary because of doubts left by the uncertain wording of the law.

The Secretary of State for Employment was given leave to refer the case to the Court of Appeal.

Verdict reserved in Uganda case

Judgment was reserved yesterday in the High Court in London in an action which three Asian Britons are seeking to compel Britain to seek compensation from Uganda for possessions they left behind when they were expelled in 1972.

The case, brought by Mr Kamrudin Pirbhai, aged 72, of Waltham Forest, Essex; Mr Vrajil Vasant, aged 82, of South Harrow, Middlesex; and Mr Chinabhai Amin, aged 70, of Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire, is regarded as a test case for 6,500 potential claimants who left behind property valued at £150m.

Festival lost £68,991

The Edinburgh Festival lost £68,991 last year despite being one of the "most artistically successful and stimulating in recent years," according to the annual report of the Edinburgh Festival Society, published yesterday.

The report says that a continuing problem is persuading audiences to go to lesser-known works, even when performed by leading artists to critical acclaim.

Ship withdrawn after repairs

The Royal Navy withdrew a 24-year-old minesweeper from service immediately after spending £100,000 on it.

The Ministry of Defence said the work on HMS Lewiston earlier this year was routine maintenance and not a refit.

Minister elected

Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy has been elected president of the Conservative Action for Electoral Reform group. Mr Robin Squire, MP for Hornchurch was re-elected chairman.

Welsh tremor

A strong earth tremor shook more than 30 miles of North Wales yesterday afternoon. Buildings in Blaenau Ffestiniog, Porthmadog and Gwynedd and on Llyn peninsula were shaken.

300 jobs to go

A Northern Ireland knitwear factory, Ulster Laces, of Portadown, Co. Armagh, is to close with the loss of 300 jobs. It blamed cheap imports and a large fall in demand for its jackets.

Defence depots urged to save £500m by reducing stocks

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

An all-party committee of MPs has urged the Ministry of Defence to end excessive holding of stores for the Armed Forces, claiming that a once-and-for-all saving of up to £500m could be made.

The Public Accounts Committee says even small reductions in stock levels would produce substantial savings.

The committee's report, published yesterday, came the day after a report severely criticized security at Ministry of Defence establishments.

The committee says the ministry's central stores depots hold stocks worth £5,000m. Each year they issue stocks worth more than £1,700m. This

did not include ammunition, food and liquid fuel, or stocks outside central depots.

Stock levels represent about three years of normal peacetime use. In some cases this is as much as seven years.

Though the ministry did not believe total stockholding was too high, it accepted that in some areas it was excessive. The committee comments: "We believe, however, that the general extent of over-stocking is likely to be much higher than the Ministry of Defence appears to accept."

Stock levels were related to normal peacetime levels of usage with a substantial margin against possible emergencies.

Even a 5 to 10 per cent overall reduction on holdings of £5,000m would produce one-and-for-all savings of £250m to £500m on stores purchases, with further annual savings, the report says.

"From our examination we were satisfied that even on the most pessimistic assumptions there is sufficient margin within present holdings to make savings feasible and thus to require urgent action by MoD to review the basis of their provisioning and related activities."

Thirty-third Report from the Committee of Public Accounts: Economy of Stores Support (Ministry of Defence, Cmnd. 411, Stationery Office, £4.65).

Greenham fence could cost £1m

By Our Defence Correspondent

A wide range of devices for detecting intruders is available if the Ministry of Defence accepts the recommendation of an all-party committee of MPs that the perimeter of high-risk installations, such as Greenham Common, should be made much more secure.

On Thursday the Commons Defence Committee published a report highly critical of security at many defence establishments. It specifically recommended that 3.5m should be spent on strengthening the perimeter at Greenham, where cruise missiles are based.

It is estimated that at least a quarter of the 128 unauthorized

incursions into defence establishments in 1983 occurred at Greenham. Although the high security areas near the missile silos have very elaborate security arrangements, those around the nine-mile perimeter are fairly basic, consisting of a chain-link fence, barbed wire barriers, watch towers unmanned for much of the time and floodlighting.

The committee recommended that the chain-link fence should be supplemented by weldmesh fencing, which is much more difficult to breach. A chain-link fence will start to unravel when even one wire is cut, but in weldmesh fencing the strands

are thicker and every intersection is welded.

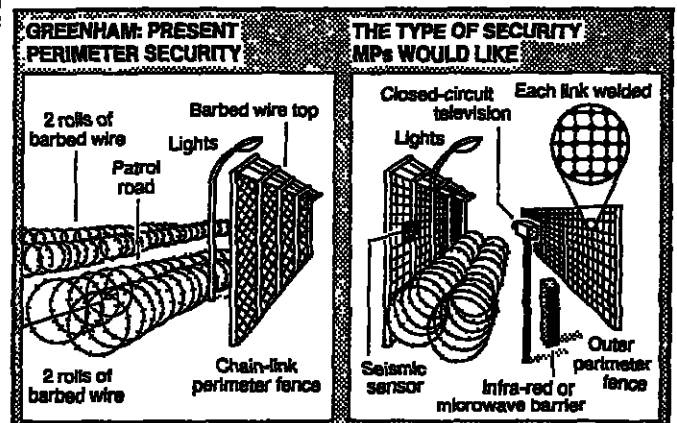
One possibility for Greenham mentioned by an industrial source was for a fence made of wire with a diameter of 4mm welded into a mesh 3in by 4in. The committee estimated the cost of such a fence at £1m, or between £50 and £60 a yard.

The committee also recommended spending £2.5m on close-circuit television and other sensors, which could involve a combination of systems.

The more obvious possibilities are seismic sensors, which pick up vibrations and can detect movement above and below ground, and infra-red or microwave barriers in which a beam or pulse from a transmitter to a receiver would be disrupted if anyone crossed it.

All those sensors, as well as the close-circuit television, could be linked to a control console so that the entire perimeter could be monitored from a single room.

Mr Roland Boyes, Labour MP for Houghton and Washington, who was on an official tour of Greenham in January, said yesterday that the missile silos were guarded with machine guns and high wire with penknife blades instead of the normal barb.



Call for JPs to try jail crimes

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Panels of magistrates should try serious offences in jails as part of the reforms in hearing disciplinary cases, the Association of Members of Boards of Visitors said yesterday.

"There is no case for boards of visitors retaining their adjudicatory role," the Association says in evidence to the Departmental Committee on the Prison Disciplinary System.

In acting as impartial watchdogs in the prison system, boards are compromised by their adjudicatory role. Prisoners may be reluctant to make applications to the board and have little faith in the outcome, given that their grievances are being heard by the same body

which exercises disciplinary powers. Panels of Board members may be subject to various pressures to produce an outcome that it seen to satisfy the staff of an appropriate finding or award, the association says.

The magistrates should be part of a three-tier system, including hearings by the governor and the crown court. There should be means of appeal and review of cases. The governors should lose the power to award loss of remission, but the magistrates' panels should be able to award up to 120 days for one offence and not more than 240 days in total for two or more.

Ban sought on demos in London

By Our Political Editor

The Home Secretary is to be asked by Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster North, to consider banning or severely limiting demonstrations in central London, after learning that there are on average five events a month in Westminster requiring the deployment of more than 100 police officers.

Mr Wheeler, who has led the campaign for firmer action against law-breaking demonstrators, said that he was started to have been told by the Home Office that more than 100 events since the beginning of last year had required this policing.

"Historically the Queen's highway has been open for use by all, but small numbers of people are now usurping the right to exclusive use of the highway at the expense of ordinary citizens."

Mr Wheeler said he had been invited to a meeting next week with the City of Westminster Chamber of Commerce which is concerned by the damage done to the city's commercial life, by "almost a demo a day."

The list of events requiring heavy police included royal occasions, such as the opening of Parliament and Trooping the Colour, as well as other fixtures, such as the Lord Mayor's Show and the state visit of the President of Zambia.

The world economic summit last month required special police deployment. But marches and demonstrations by special interest or minority groups, many of them foreign, predominated.

CND was responsible for 14 of the occasions. Iraqis, Iranians, Palestinians, Pakistanis, Tamils, Sikhs, Cypriots, Polish and Chilean solidarity movements all had their days.

Leaders of all three political parties on Bradford City Council are seeking a meeting with senior police officers who allowed the British National Party rally to take place on Thursday although the council was ready to seek a banning order from the Home Secretary.

The British Council is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year with a drive to set up partnerships with companies bidding for important projects overseas.

It expects to spend £63m this year to "promote an enduring understanding and appreciation of Britain's cultural, educational and technical abilities. Two months ago, though, in an effort to put much more emphasis on the technical skills, it circulated British companies with a warning and an offer.

It emphasized that less aid is nowadays going direct to developing countries. In Britain's case, 41 per cent is



Head First: Mr Steve Treble hangs by his foot (top) after his parachute tangled during a 3,200ft jump on Thursday at Headcorn airfield, Kent, and (bottom) on the ground, bruised but no bones broken.

Russia 'ran 200 British spies'

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Anthony Kershaw, Conservative MP for Stroud and chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, will spend the weekend studying a 160-page memorandum claiming that the Soviet Union ran between 200 and 300 spies in Britain only 10 to 13 of whom were uncovered.

The document, *The Security of the United Kingdom Against the Assault of the Russian Intelligence Service*, was sent by Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 "molehunter" who lives in retirement in Australia.

Speaking from his home in Tasmania yesterday, Mr Wright said: "All I am trying to do is to get an inquiry."

He was prepared to return to Britain to give evidence provided he was guaranteed that he would not be prosecuted under the Official Secrets Acts for giving an interview to Granada Television's *World in Action* broadcast this month.

Mr Wright said if he failed to persuade the Government to reopen the question of Soviet penetration of British intelligence he would publish his document "world-wide". He had refused several approaches from publishers wishing to take the book. No newspaper had made an offer.

Sir Anthony confirmed from his Gloucestershire home yesterday that Mr Wright's document had "just arrived". "I think an inquiry at a suitable level would not come amiss."

But he was keeping an open mind and would study the material before deciding whether to press the Prime Minister for an investigation. Sir Anthony said that he had been approached by retired intelligence officers urging him to undertake an inquiry.

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Plenty of coal for homes, NCB says

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Coal mined specifically for the domestic market in now being produced at 40 per cent of normal levels, according to the National Coal Board. Pits in Nottingham and East Midlands areas particularly are keeping supplies to merchants at near normal levels.

The NCB said yesterday that with output at that level, output from the smokeless fuel industry still continuing and imports of house coal from Poland, there is no expectation of shortages this winter.

The only merchants to be hit are those in the strike-bound coalfields who draw supplies direct from pits and do not operate from their own yards.

Judgment will be given on Monday in the High Court in London on the action brought by Gloucestershire coke handlers seeking to have South Wales miners' leaders jailed for contempt, it was announced yesterday.

On Thursday, Mr Justice Park reserved judgment on an application by George Read Transport and Richard Read Transport seeking the committal of Emylin Williams, South Wales NUM president, Terry Thomas, area vice president and George Rees, area general secretary. The companies allege that the union leaders have broken a High Court injunction not to stop, approach or interfere with the companies' lorries at Port Talbot steel-works.

A spokesman for the NCB said: "In fairness to the National Union of Mineworkers they have been very good in lifting picketing to meet any cases of hardship when requested by local merchants. They have allowed supplies to be collected from the pits for schools, hospitals and elderly customers when approached."

The NCB and the Department of Energy have ruled out any form of rationing or quota structure being introduced this winter for domestic supplies.

The NCB spokesman said: "Any supply will be a matter to be dealt with between the coal merchants and the customer, but the figures we have show that there is no reason for people to be concerned or panicked into building up stocks during the summer at higher than normal levels. Consumers may have to switch from one brand of smokeless fuel to another, but supplies are available."

The study examines 10 more cases.

They seem to think the select committee is the basis for it. I differ on that. We are not cleared for security. We are not privy councillors."

Mr Wright said yesterday that his study was written from memory. It listed: "Only names that everybody knows. It was written to demonstrate the threat and what can be done to improve things security-wise."

The Wright memorandum, of about 30,000 words, examines the case of the late Sir Roger Hollis, former director-general of MI5. In 1981, Sir Roger was cleared by the Prime Minister of allegations that he had spied for Russia.

In his television interview Mr Wright claimed that "intelligence-wise it was 99 per cent certain" that Sir Roger had been a Soviet agent.

The study examines 10 more cases.

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Liberals on Hackney Council, east London, yesterday won the right to proceed with a legal challenge to a ban imposed by the Labour-controlled council, which denies them access to key meetings.

They were granted leave in the High Court in London by Mr Justice Woolf to proceed with a judicial review of the ban, in what is seen as a test case on the freedom of councillors to have access to information.

The Liberals say that the council has acted beyond its powers in banning councillors from meetings unless they are members and in denying them access to agendas and minutes.

They have the backing of Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, as part of his freedom of information campaign. They are also being supported by the Association of Liberal Councillors.

Hackney Council bans Liberals, outnumbered 50 to seven by Labour, from seven "confidential" subcommittees unless they are members. Liberals are denied access to five subcommittees and the Conservatives to three.

The case has implications for many so-called "undemocratic" councils, including Conservative-controlled Bromley, Kent, and Seaford, Merton, and Labour-dominated Coventry and Barking and Essex.

Hackney's Liberal leader, Mr David Gampster, protests that the ban makes it impossible for him to represent constituents.

Alliance may sue over TV time

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, yesterday threatened to seek redress in the courts for what he claimed was a denial of natural justice by the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

He said the Broadcasting Complaints Commission had this week told him it had no powers to examine his complaint, made on behalf of the Liberal Party and SDP, that both broadcasting authorities were failing in their duty to act fairly and impartially and not to discriminate.

The two parties have frequently complained that broadcasters allocate time in news reports by reference to the distribution of seats in the Commons rather than to electoral support.

Speaking in the Commons yesterday during a debate on select committees, on which the Alliance parties consider they are unfairly represented, Dr Owen was particularly severe on the BBC Radio Four programme *Yesterday in Parliament*, which he called a disgrace.

The BBC is perpetuating the old party system," he said. The independence of the BBC governors was going to be questioned severely and in his view would go to the courts on the issue of natural justice.

In his letter to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission, Dr Owen said the Alliance was not being treated as an important political force and by comparison with Labour was being given grossly unfair treatment.

The Alliance obtained 25.4 per cent of the vote at the general election, against Labour's 27.6 per cent and had obtained more votes than Labour or the Conservatives in the six by-elections of the present Parliament.

This was a considerable shift from the support won by the Liberals alone in 1945, but had not been matched by an equivalent change in the way politics was reported by broadcasters.

He enclosed figures from a monitoring exercise by his party during 10 weeks between February and April this year of BBC Television's main 9pm news and ITN's *News at Ten*. It measured coverage of the parties' activities in minutes and seconds as:

Conservative Labour Alliance
BBC 85' 14" 26' 26" 7' 5"
ITN 85' 58" 38' 57" 5' 31"

But he acknowledged that programmes had to reflect the news, and that it was inevitable that the activities of the Government should receive more prominence.

ITN said yesterday that it had not seen the analysis of the SDP's findings, and did not know what it covered, for example, whether it included government statements. ITN could make no further comment until it had seen the study.

Miss Barbara Hosking, controller of information services for the IBA, said that the independent television companies went to great trouble to ensure that their programmes were not biased. The emergence of the Alliance had made the requirement of impartiality harder to observe.

Liberals to challenge council ban

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

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Hackney's Liberal leader, Mr David Gampster, protests that the ban makes it impossible for him to represent constituents.

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Air package tourists to get more protection from company collapses

By Robin Young

Arrangements for protecting air package holidaymakers if their tour company fails are to be strengthened after the Laker collapse.

The Department of Transport yesterday accepted a recommendation by Sir Peter Laker that the Government should take powers to reimpose a levy on holders of Air Travel Organizers' Licence if future claims seriously reduce the size of the fund.

At present 717 companies are licensed with about £150m in compulsory bonds. If the bond is not sufficient to cover a company which fails then a second source of compensation is approximately £18m held in the Air Travel Reserve Fund.

During the past 10 years 50 ATOL licence holders have failed, but in only 22 cases was it necessary to draw on the reserve fund.

Sir Peter, who was asked to review arrangements after the Laker collapse, concluded that the present level of the fund was adequate and that neither the consumer nor the industry would benefit from fundamental changes in the system.

His recommendations for strengthening the scheme include increasing the bonds required from some of the larger companies.

The Civil Aviation Authority, which also monitors the financial fitness of air travel companies, welcomed the report, and said that it would be looking at the recommendations.

In his report Sir Peter said that there was no enthusiasm in the industry of from the insurance market for replacing the present arrangements with insurance cover.

He concluded that this was not a practicable option, but in the House of Commons yesterday Mr David Mitchell, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, expressed disappointment at the insurance industry's lack of interest.

He asked for comments by the end of September on Sir Peter's report and said that he would especially value comments from insurers.

The Tour Operators' Study Group, representing 17 large travel companies, welcomed the report's recommendations that the existing holidaymakers' protection scheme should not be changed.

Review of Arrangements for Protecting the Clients of Air Travel Organizers (Department of Transport, Building 1, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0NZ, £5.20).

Graduate had igloo in bedroom

Police who searched the home of a nuclear engineering graduate found £2,000 worth of cannabis plants in the greenhouse, a drugs laboratory in the lounge, a temple of meditation in the sitting room, and an igloo in the bedroom, Inner London Crown Court was told yesterday.

Andrew Hale, aged 31, of Plumstead High Street, south London, admitted possessing cannabis with intent to supply, and selling cannabis. He was ordered to serve 180 hours' community service.

Libyan student is deported

Police have confirmed that they arrested and deported a Libyan, in a move understood to be linked with inquiries into the Libyan Embassy siege in April.

The Libyan, who lived in Tilehurst and was studying agriculture at Reading University under the name Mehammer, is believed to be Saleh Al Nali, a man with strong links with Colonel Gaddafi's inner circle of revolutionaries.

Thoughtful wife of thirsty man

Mrs Kathleen Edwards, of Southall, Middlesex, who died in May, willed in her will: "I would like my funeral car to stop outside The Fulgur public house, Norwood Green, so my husband can have his usual pint, I will wait as I have always waited."

The will was dated April 1, and the family said yesterday: "The stop did not happen. We decided it was a private joke."

Gun theft charge

Paul May, aged 17, of Waterworks Road, Birmingham, was charged at Torbay Magistrates' Court, Devon, yesterday with stealing 12 hand guns from a shop in Paignton. He was remanded in custody until Monday, when he will appear on a joint charge with Vincent Palmer, aged 18, of Noel Road, Edgaston, Birmingham, who appeared at the court on Thursday.

Swan sanctuary

A sanctuary for swans poisoned by lead is to be opened by Lord Bathurst on his Cirencester Park Estate in Gloucestershire. Volunteers are being asked to clear gravel pits, which will be used as a treatment centre for swans affected by fishermen's lead-weights.

Appeals refused

Three terrorists of Palestinian origin jailed for the attempted assassination in June, 1982, of the then Israeli Ambassador to Britain, Mr Shlomo Argon, were refused leave in the Court of Appeal yesterday in appeal against their sentences.

2½-mile dry wall

A Cotswold dry stone wall more than two-and-a-half miles long forms part of the A40 Northleach bypass in Gloucestershire, to be opened on Tuesday by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport.

Scientists criticize dioxin decision

By Patricia Clough

Scientists and environmentalists are concerned about a decision by Falkirk District Council not to take any action about dioxin and other toxic chemicals found in samples of soil.

Three dioxin experts said the decision appeared to have been based on misleading information from local pollution authorities.

The discovery of dioxin has increased fears that a chemical waste reprocessing plant at Bonnybridge or a municipal incinerator near by may have caused cancer, birth defects, diseased cows and still-born or malformed calves.

The council had been considering a report by Dr Brock Chittam, a Canadian analyst, who said he found polychlorinated biphenyls which have been linked with cancer and foetal malformations, and chlorinated dioxin, known to

cause cancer in animals, in soil samples Dr Chittam wrote to the Scottish Office expressing concern and asking for more tests.

The council decided not to take action against the plant, owned by Re-Chem International, on the basis of a statement by the Industrial Pollution Inspectorate that the amounts found in the samples were similar to levels normally found in rural areas.

But the scientists said no-one knew the dioxin levels in British rural areas since a survey would be too costly.

Dr Alister Hay, of the Department of Chemical Pathology, Leeds University, said a processing plant in Illinois had been closed after complaints of similar diseases in horses and humans living near by. The levels of dioxin found in the area were lower than at Bonnybridge.



Princess Alexandra with Sir Kenneth Newman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, attending the force's horse show at Imber Court, East Molesey, Surrey, yesterday. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Sinclair aim to win half market

Sinclair Research aims to capture half the British micro-computer market by Christmas (Bill Johnstone writes). Its present share is 43 per cent and rising.

For the first time the company will advertise its television, specifically to sell the Spectrum.

To coincide with the £4m advertising campaign the QL microcomputer and the pocket television, previously only available by mail order, will be on sale in shops. The new marketing strategy will also feature gifts of programs.

Sinclair is to double Spectrum output to 200,000 a month by the end of the year. QL output will rise to 50,000 and that of pocket televisions to 20,000.

But the company has warned retailers that it expects the initial supply of QLs and televisions to be limited.

Dangerous strimmers recalled

Black and Decker is to spend £100,000 on an advertising campaign to warn customers about defective grass strimmers which have fallen apart and cut users.

The strimmers have a faulty spool which flies off at high speed. The company's marketing director, Mr Evan Jones, described them as dangerous.

"We were alerted to the danger when customers who were injured, reported accidents. Immediately we started the recall and a special team is now working through our two-week shut-down period modifying the machines returned, to make them safe."

A Ranco ornamental pool filter has been found to be electrically unsafe. The Japanese-made filter, costing about £90, has been found by the British Standards Institute to have a design fault and owners are advised to disconnect it from the mains.



Dartmoor ponies are finding their usual drinking places dried up by the drought. Dartmoor national park officials say they are still getting enough to drink from heavy morning dews, the few remaining streams and, where necessary, from their owners. Photograph: Gerry Free

Few lessons learnt from 1976 drought

The present water shortage shows how few lessons were learnt from the last drought, in 1976.

However, the Wessex Water Authority, badly affected in 1976, has not needed restrictions because it pioneered new technology.

Monitoring equipment used to stop leaks is believed to have cut needs by a tenth.

But the South West Water authority, which is just beginning similar work, faces a cut-off of 17 hours a day early next month.

Backwardness in improving coordination of supplies within water authorities, another lesson of 1976, has hit the Welsh particularly hard.

In Britain between a quarter and a third of purified water is believed to drain away before reaching the tap. Britain uses twice as much water a head than most European countries. Water losses are believed to be worsening as the average age of mains, many built by the Victorians, increases.

In many areas leak control is hindered by the loss of maps showing the original Victorian installations. Nationally it has been officially recognized only since 1980 that repairing leaks is cost-effective.

This week, however, the Water Research Council, funded by the 10 water authorities in England and Wales, appointed Dr Dewi Madoc-Jones

Daily water consumption per head

	Litres
Glasgow	368
London	256
Birmingham	188
Amsterdam	122
Brussels	109

heavy rain, or 50 per cent cuts in consumption will prevent cut-offs for 17 hours a day. Wales faces a similar situation by September if the drought persists.

The London Weather Centre yesterday held out little hope of prolonged rain at the weekend.

Children face a health risk as water levels in Reservoirs and rivers fall, a Labour spokesman on the environment, Mr Jack Straw, told the Commons yesterday. "There is a danger when reservoirs get extremely low of the development of Weil's disease, a virulent form of glandular fever, which can affect young children playing on river banks."

Beaches ban threat to dogs

By a Staff Reporter

The dog days of summer will soon be over for good on some Cornish beaches, as district councils are to get powers, to ban canine visitors, from the sands.

The Cornwall Bill, containing provision for anti-dog decrees to come into force next year, completed its passage through the House of Commons in the small hours of yesterday, despite howls of protest from some dog-loving MPs.

Two Cornish districts already have clear ideas from which beaches they are likely to ban dogs. It is likely that all of them will make orders in due course protecting some of their beaches. Cornwall's tourism officers insist that there will still be plenty of beaches where dog lovers will be allowed to take their pets.

Mr John Winskill, secretary of Gyllynegase and nearby Castle Beach, said yesterday his authority was plagued with complaints from visitors about dogs fouling the beach.

Gyllynegase and nearby Castle Beach will be early candidates for designation, as well as Chapel Porth at St Agnes on the north coast, where restricted access will make the ban easier to enforce.

Mr David Jagger, administrator of Restormel District Council, said his authority had received many letters about Redmossy Cove and Whitehouse Beach, Fowey. "The principal problem is fouling, but we have also had cases of dogs roaming in packs and frightening young children", he said.

"Every year we get letters from visitors to Newquay on the north coast saying that they have been so disgusted by the sight of dogs depositing on the beach that they feel they could not return."

Mr Don Macintosh, Newquay's publicity officer, said his office had received only one letter complaining about dog mess on the beaches this year.

Officials in large resorts around Britain yesterday were sceptical that their authorities would wish to follow Cornwall's lead. "We like people and animals", an official at Blackpool said.

Book dealers fined in obscenity test case

Two book dealers were each fined £750 yesterday after a "test trial" at the Central Criminal Court about a book on drugs.

A jury decided by a majority of 10 to two that a £3.25 paperback "Attention Coke-Lovers" breached the Obscene Publications Act.

Beth Grossman, aged 32, and Donald Skirving, aged 35, partners in Airtight Books, which they ran from their home in Market Road, Mill Hill, north London, did not give evidence, but put forward a defence of "freedom to read".

One of their co-partners, Mr Brian Wade, aged 33, of the same address, was acquitted. The jury was told that he handled the sales side of the business and had no knowledge of the content of books.

The Home Office allowed Scotland Yard to raid the firm after complaints by an MP. The jury's verdict means the scope of the Obscene Publications Act has been widened beyond matters of a sexual nature.

Mr Michael Worsley, for the prosecution, said information in "Attention Coke-Lovers" might tend to deprave

Policeman fired shots and set home ablaze

A police officer barricaded himself in his home, kept fellow officers away with a shotgun for an hour and a half and then attempted suicide by setting fire to the house, St Albans Crown Court was told yesterday.

Sergeant Terence Robbins fired his gun at the walls and windows. While the house was burning he jumped from the window.

Robbins, aged 34, father of three children, of Telscombe Way, Luton, Bedfordshire, admitted arson and possessing a firearm with intent to commit

an offence. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, with one year suspended.

His senior officer, Det Chief Supt Brian Prickett, told Mr Justice Paine that Robbins had been a dedicated officer who worked long hours.

He added: "The long hours clearly had a bad effect on his family life. He would not share his troubles, but bottled things up. The final straw appears to have been when he received a divorce petition from his wife which described him as not being a caring man. He was in an appalling mental state

David Jacobs says goodbye to 'Any Questions'

By Richard Dowden



David Jacobs: smooth and effortless charm

David Jacobs was chairman last night for the last time of RBC Radio's *Any Questions*, the programme he has compared with smooth and effortless charm for nearly 17 years.

"Four months ago I simply was told that my contract would not be renewed at the end of the series. They said they wanted to have a change," Mr Jacobs said yesterday. "I'm sure it will be good for the programme and good for me."

Mr Jacobs said he had enjoyed enormously chairing the programme in which four

public figures give their views on questions put by members of the audience. It is broadcast live from church halls, works canteens and meeting places all over the country.

He said that his worst moment was at Basingstoke in 1976 when anti-fascist demonstrators hurled bricks and abuse at the United Reformed Church hall, where the panel was sitting, because they objected to the presence of Mr Enoch Powell on the platform. Mr Jacobs led the team from the platform and the programme was stopped but resumed after 10 minutes.

The programme was also stopped four years later by hecklers at Newcastle upon Tyne.

The team last night included Lord Marsh, a close personal friend of Mr Jacobs.

Mr Jacobs, aged 58, is only the third regular chairman of *Any Questions* since it grew out of the *Brains Trust* programme more than 30 years ago.

He is to be replaced by Mr John Timpon, the presenter from the *Today* programme, when the new series starts in the autumn.



It's more than just the price that sets it apart. Quality in an age of change.

Israel looks to President to find way out of its election stalemate

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Because of the stalemate resulting from Israel's general election, President Chaim Herzog is due to play a crucial role next week in determining which of the main parties get the first opportunity to try to form a new government.

Under Israeli law the President's first task is to consult the leaders of the various Knesset factions, and then to designate one of them to try to form a coalition. The party leader thus selected then has up to 42 days to try to complete the task.

After four days of inconclusive haggling, commentators are looking increasingly towards the President to help end the impasse. "In the past, the President's task was in fact by way of an automatic confirmation of the clear decision of the electorate," the *Jerusalem Post* wrote yesterday.

"This time, due to the balanced stand off and the problems entailed in having the parties overcome their objections to serving together in a government of national unity, President Herzog will be confronted with real options which were never granted to any previous President."

There is growing pressure for Mr Herzog to refuse to invite Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the Kach Party, to take part in next week's discussions, although such a move would be a complete break with precedent.

A senior Israeli official said: "The President is not obliged by law to see every leader of the small parties, although that is what happened in 1981. I think the great majority of Israelis would support a presidential gesture to spurn Rabbi Kahane and his racism."

A former member of the Labour Party, Mr Herzog - who was born in Belfast - is well respected by all sections of Israeli society, and in the past has gone out of his way to show himself to be impartial. He is now also under growing pressure to take the initiative in moves to change Israel's present unsatisfactory electoral system, which has led to the deadlock.

Figures released yesterday showed that Rabbi Kahane's party secured double the support from the army vote that it did from the civilian sector. It won one seat by obtaining 1.2 per cent of the total Israeli vote.



Meeting the people: President Reagan greets supporters at an election rally in Elizabeth, New Jersey

Marines completing Beirut pull-out

Embassy hires militia guards

American diplomats in Beirut have recruited Druze and Shia Muslim gunmen to guard their new embassy offices in the west of the city, dressed them in brown uniforms with black berets and given them heavy machine-guns to protect the building on the Mediterranean coastline.

On the eve of the withdrawal of the very last US Marine unit in the Lebanese capital it adds a final irony to America's political and military involvement in the country, for it was

Peking optimistic on Howe visit

From David Bonavia, Peking

China wants the commission to sit in Hongkong, but Britain opposes this on the grounds that it might become a factor in the increasingly sensitive political situation there.

Mr Wu Xueqian, the Chinese Foreign Minister, told reporters in Peking yesterday that he hoped to sort out "questions which remain issues in the Anglo-Chinese talks on Hongkong, during the visit by Sir Geoffrey Howe."

Sir Geoffrey arrived from Hongkong on board an RAF VC10. His visit was arranged to resolve the disagreement between Britain and China over a future joint commission to oversee arrangements for transferring sovereignty over the territory to China in 1997.

Weinberger rejects limiting Vienna agenda to space

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr Casper Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, yesterday ruled out going to Vienna for talks with the Soviet Union if the Russians insist on limiting discussions to the subject of space weapons. His comments were the most forthright statement so far on the American position.

The Soviet Union has proposed that the talks should begin on September 18. The Americans insist that they would also raise the issue of strategic and medium-range nuclear missiles, which the Russians have described as an unacceptable pre-condition.

Mr Weinberger's remarks have come at an extremely delicate time in back-stage attempts by both sides to get the talks under way. They are in sharp contrast to the careful language chosen by other senior members of the Administration.

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, spent most of Thursday on Capitol Hill trying to reassure Senators that the Administration is doing its utmost to get the Vienna talks going. In contrast, Mr Weinberger has given the impression that the US position is not negotiable.

Counterblast by Moscow

A deputy Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Viktor Kompletov, accused the US of making negotiations impossible (Reuter reports from Moscow).

He told a news conference that the US reply, which American officials said was delivered on July 24, talked only of "issues of concern to both sides" without mentioning space weapons. "The position of the United States has made impossible negotiations as proposed by the Soviet Government."

Moscow proposed last week that the two governments should issue a joint statement on their readiness to hold talks, detailing an agenda limited to space weapons and announcing a moratorium on their development.

A counter-draft from Washington referred only to reaching "mutual and verifiable measures of limitation on issues causing concern to both sides", Mr Kompletov said.

Asked what Washington had to do to make talks possible, Mr Kompletov said: "They should say 'Yes, there is a problem of the militarization of space... Let us talk about finding a solution to this problem'."

The Kremlin wants assurances on a limited, predefined agenda for the talks, and says it would regard a refusal to impose a moratorium on space weapons as unwillingness to talk. But it says a moratorium is not a precondition for talks.

President Reagan has made clear that he is prepared to send a delegation to Vienna without preconditions, but that the US team would feel free to raise issues on interest. Washington has also indicated that it cannot accept a Russian proposal for a moratorium on testing space weapons once the talks are under way.

Mr Weinberger, speaking to the *Washington Post*, said: "They (the Russians) have said they want to talk about anti-satellite and space-based weapons systems - the demilitarization of space is what they are talking about - and we have said: 'Fine, we'll talk about that'."

"But we also want to talk about our agenda, which is the reduction of missiles that kill people. I very much hope we will go to Vienna, but there is no point whatever in going to Vienna and just talking about one thing."

Frenchman shoots at British hitch-hikers

Two British hitch-hikers waiting for a lift in front of a house in St Jean de la Rue, near Orleans, were shot at on Wednesday by the irate owner who could not stand the sound of his dogs barking. He had asked them to move on, but the two boys apparently did not understand.

Nicholas Barnard, aged 21, from Bristol, was taken to hospital after being wounded in the elbow, but was released the following day after the bullet had been removed. His friend was not hurt. The owner of the house, Philippe Auger, aged 20, was detained by police overnight but was then released.

Quebec law 'inoperable'

Ottawa - The Supreme Court of Canada has struck down sections of a Quebec provincial law which severely restricts the language of education rights of English-speaking families in Quebec (John Best writes).

It rejected as "inoperable" the limiting of English-language education in the mainly French-speaking province to the children of parents educated in English.

Belgians held

Brussels (AFP) - Luxembourg police have arrested two Belgians, Mr Alain Deynne, aged 33, and Mr Gerard Massard, in connection with the death of an Englishwoman, Margaret Bivertstone, aged 30, last Saturday.

Envoy goes

Madrid (AFP) - Iran quietly withdrew its press attaché, Mr Muhammad Jafar Niknam, aged 38, from Spain after the authorities accused him of contacts with terrorist suspects. He flew to Geneva.

Brazil choice

Sao Paulo - Senator Tancredio Neves, Governor of Minas Gerais state, is to be proclaimed presidential candidate of the opposition PMDB, the Brazilian Democratic Movement, and breakaway "liberal" wing of the ruling PSD Social Democratic Party on August 7.

Uganda parole

Nairobi - Seven hundred people, including prisoners serving sentences and others who had been detained "on suspicion", have been released on parole from Luzira prison, near Kampala, Radio Uganda announced.

Jakarta contact

Jakarta (Reuters) - Indonesia and Portugal are maintaining contacts despite the breakdown of negotiations over Lisbon's former colony of East Timor which Jakarta annexed in 1976, the Foreign Minister, Mr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, said.

Priest minister

Managua (AFP) - Father Fernando Cardenal, a Jesuit, has been sworn in as Education Minister of the Sandinista Government, despite warnings from his order that the office was incompatible with his condition as a priest.

Kuwait deal

Kuwait (Reuters) - The Kuwaiti Defence Minister, Sheikh Salem al-Sabah, has returned home after a 10-day official visit to the Soviet Union, during which he reached agreement in principle to buy Soviet weapons.

Baby boost

Singapore (Reuters) - Singapore has approved income tax cuts for educated married women to induce them to continue working and have more children.

Leopard ban

Dar es Salaam (AFP) - Tanzania has banned the export of leopards and cheetahs or products made from the skins of the two endangered animals.

Rome blast

Rome (AP) - A blast tore through an apartment in southern Rome, injuring two people who were reported to be the family of a Nato officer.

Cheysson attacks US attitude to world debt

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - M Claude Cheysson, the French External Affairs Minister, has accused Washington of failing to listen to international demands for action on the world debt crisis.

"It is really difficult for us to understand why the Americans remain silent on the analysis we make in common", he told the Argentine Council for International Relations on Thursday.

M Cheysson said the developing world and the industrialized nations of Europe were increasingly in agreement that interest rates must be lowered, budget deficits cut and North-South dialogue increased to overcome world economic problems.

The leading banks have understood that part of their future depends on what happens in the Third World", he said.

M Cheysson addressed the council on the first day of a three-day visit to Argentina.

He said the economic crisis was the greatest threat facing the world, even more than the East-West conflict. But nothing could be accomplished unless the United States cooperated.

"If interest rates do not go down there (in the United States) we cannot lower ours. The world monetary order depends on them" he said.



The Spanish financier, Señor José María Ruiz Mateos, with his wife Teresa and one of his daughters after being freed in Frankfurt on bail of DM10m (£2.6m). There was no word on Spain's request for his extradition to stand trial for alleged fraud.

Tense anniversary for Peruvian leader

By Colin Harding

Peru's democratically-elected Government celebrates its fourth anniversary today in an atmosphere of mounting tension.

Police this week carried out raids all over Lima, arresting more than 5,000 suspected criminals and terrorists in advance of the traditional National Day ceremonies.

Last week the armed forces were placed in overall control of operations against the Maoist guerrillas of the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) movement, in a tacit admission that the authorities have been unable to confine the insurgents to the corner of the south-central Andes where they began.

All this is a far cry from the optimism that greeted the landslide victory of President Fernando Belaúnde Terry in 1980, which put an end to 12 years of increasingly unpopular military rule. Señor Belaúnde promised rapid growth fuelled by public investment, and quick solutions to balance of payments and inflation problems.

The reality has been very different. The experienced team of bankers and financial man-



President Belaúnde: Joy gives way to anxiety

With discontent and even hunger growing among the 17 million population, and elections less than a year away, the Government decided in April to attempt the impossible, summed up by President Belaúnde as "austerity without recession".

This meant pursuing economic growth with selective public investment and support for manufactured exports, while at the same time adhering to IMF monetary guidelines. Something had to give, and this month one of the architects of the new policy, the president of the Central Bank, Señor Richard Webb, let the cat out of the bag. One of the targets set by the IMF for public expenditure, revenue collection and inflation was being, or could be, met.

By that time a series of strikes in key sectors of the economy, including the civil service and teaching, had pushed the President into declaring a state of emergency, and Sendero Luminoso had launched the biggest

offensive of its four-year-old "prolonged people's war". Up to 400 people have died in the past month, to add to the 3,400 known to have been killed in previous years.

Sendero Luminoso is a particularly ruthless movement, using assassinations, executions and terrorist bombings among its tactics. Despite the brutality of its methods, it has firmly established itself among the desperately poor peasants.

The guerrillas are not an immediate threat to the stability of the Government, but their increasingly daring operations contribute to an atmosphere of violence and demoralization exacerbated by an unprecedented crime wave and a succession of corruption scandals in high places.

The military have been reluctant to become too involved in the messy counter-insurgency effort, and the President must have hesitated before he decided to put the Army in control. He set the soldiers to chase guerrillas once before, during his first presidential term in 1965.

Within three years they had overthrown him.

Uruguay coalition ban lifted

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Uruguay's military government has lifted a ban on the country's third-largest political force, the left-wing Frente Amplio (Broad Front) coalition, in preparation for elections on November 25.

A decree issued on Thursday evening legalized the Christian Democratic, Socialist, and other parties which make up the coalition, but maintained an 11-year-old ban on the Communist Party and on the Frente's popular leader, ex-General Liber Seregni.

The announcement came as the military formally began negotiations with civilian parties on conditions for the elections, and was greeted with demonstrations and dancing.

Earlier on Thursday, 14 leaders of the traditional Blanco Party, which has refused to negotiate with the military, began a hunger strike to demand the release of their leader, Señor Wilson Ferreira Aldunate.

PARLIAMENT July 27 1984

Government appeal to save water

THE DROUGHT

The Government has appealed to the public to be responsible and economical in the use of water. In a statement to the Commons, Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, said everyone should comply with any restrictions which might be imposed and to follow the advice of water authorities and companies to diminish the prospect of more severe restrictions later.

In reply to questions he said the Meteorological Office had told him that there was no immediate end to the dry spell in sight.

Opposition MPs criticized the Government for what they called its complacency.

Mr Gow said hosepipe bans affected 21 million people and water shortages were becoming severe in Devon and Cornwall, parts of Wales and in the north west.

In the north west rainfall in the first seven months of the year had been less than since records began 91 years ago.

In the south-west demand for water had been unprecedentedly high and the local water authority had appealed for a 50 per cent reduction if rationing was to be avoided. It was preparing plans to start rationing on August 9 if necessary.

This was made clear by Mr Roger White of the Water Association on the radio this morning when he said it was this very shortage of capital investment and Government cuts in the capital programmes of water authorities which meant that they were unable to supply consumers.

The Government has been too busy snatching councils and their capital expenditure plans and programmes and not devoting sufficient attention to this critical water situation.

Did Mr Gow seek advice before making his statement from the Meteorological Office? If so what advice was given by them?

The long-term trend of demand for water clearly indicates that this situation will occur again and again unless there are fundamental changes in Government policy. Will Mr Gow undertake to set in train such a fundamental review immediately?

Mr Gow: The Secretary of State asked me to make the statement because it is I who have been entrusted with special responsibility for the water industry. I was in the north-west yesterday and I am going to the south-west next Thursday.

I reject entirely the charge that there is any complacency whatever on the part of the Government. These most certainly is not.

Hosepipe bans were first imposed in the south-west on May 12 and in the north-west on June 2. The first

drought orders were made for the north-west on June 7 and for the south-west on June 21.

In the current financial year used so we do not have to put the improving water resources and supply.

I of course receive the fortnightly reports which are issued from the Meteorological Office, and earlier this month I had a meeting with the two chief scientists.

Although forecasting of weather is an imperfect science, the forecasts which have been made are that there is no immediate prospect of an end to the very dry spell.

Sir Peter Emery (Hendon, C): Would he ensure that rota cuts were used so that the heaviest burden of water saving was put on the elderly and infirm to the hardship of using standpipes.

Mr Gow: I understand the undesirability of standpipes unless it is absolutely necessary. The Secretary of State is discussing that very matter with the chairman of the South-West Water Authority today.

Sir Anthony Steen (South Hams, C): One-third of the 20 million gallons of water which is used in Plymouth every day goes to waste because of defective pipes.

Mr Gow: There is a substantial loss of water as a result of leaks from old pipes and water authorities will be taking action in the future.

Alliance threat to disrupt business of House

PROCEDURE

The role of the BBC in reporting Parliament and the independence of its governors were questioned by Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, during a debate in the House of Commons over the political composition of select committees.

He said that important debates during the middle of the night had gone virtually unreported, but the present debate was taking place in prime time so that even the BBC might report it.

The BBC (he said) with some of the pointed references and descriptions that come out of the debates of this House in a neutered and edited version in *Yesterday in Parliament* are a disgrace.

The BBC is perpetuating the (continued) the old party system. They are part of the old party system and the independence of the governors of the BBC is something that is going to be questioned very severely in the courts of law of this country on the issue of natural justice.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, L) said that in the miserable allocation of time given by the BBC to *Today in Parliament* and *Yesterday in Parliament*, the programmes totally ignored the contribution of Alliance MPs and that was outrageous given the weight of opinion they represented.

Members of the Liberal-SDP Alliance would continue to disrupt the proceedings of the House night after night until they were given better representation on committees.

Alliance MPs with the help of some Labour MPs forced five divisions on orders changing representation on some of the committees. The Government had substantial majorities in the divisions.

A rare procedure was invoked in the Commons during the early hours of Friday morning after Liberal and Alliance MPs delayed proceedings by continually pressing Lord's amendments to the Housing Defects Bill to the vote.

After seven divisions, the Deputy Speaker (Mr Ernest Armstrong) invoked Standing Order No 38, claiming that a division had been called unnecessarily.

The "Ayes" and "Noes" were asked to stand, rather than file through the division lobbies. Since the large number of Conservative MPs in the Chamber, together with the small number of Labour MPs, all stood in favour, each of the five amendments where this device was used were agreed to.

Last appeal by Ngemas against losing their land

From Michael Horvath, Johannesburg

The 2,000-strong black farming community of kwaNgemas in the eastern Transvaal, which wrote to the Queen earlier this year asking for help in resisting forcible removal to a tribal reserve, now fears that resettlement may be imminent.

Mrs Thatcher, to whom the Ngemas also wrote, raised the issue when she met Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, in June and made clear that western governments would condemn the forced removal of the mainly Zulu community.

Since then, however, the Government has stated that the Ngemas are to be moved whatever their wishes. In a desperate last bid the farmers have written to Mr Botha entreating him not to make them "landless squatters in some impoverished homeland".

Copies of the letter have been sent to the Pope and the Queen, who replied to the farmers' earlier letter through the British Ambassador here, offering concern and sympathy but explaining her powerlessness to do any more.

A dam is to be opened nearby next year and the Government says this will flood the Ngemas' land, necessitating their removal. In fact, only 20 of the 100 families living there will be affected.

Low-key release for Polish dissidents

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

The Polish authorities have started to free some of their most sensitive political prisoners, members of the top Solidarity leadership, dissidents said yesterday.

Mr Grzegorz Palka, one of seven Solidarity leaders imprisoned in Pankowiczka prison in Warsaw, was released on Thursday night and, according to one source, taken to the railway station to catch a train back to Lodz.

Mr Palka, a former researcher at Lodz polytechnic and deputy chairman of the union branch in the smoky textile town, was not viewed as radical, but even so the manner of his release was surprisingly low key - no flashing police vans, no caravans of secret police.

A similar approach was taken in the freeing of Mr Andrzej Gwiazda, Gaunt, bearded, missing his front teeth, carrying a rock sack. Mr Gwiazda was allowed to leave the prison where he had been incarcerated for two and a half years. He headed for the Europejski Hotel, a faded building with potted plants, where he had promised to take his wife, also a dissident, to celebrate his release.

Because he looked like a tramp he was refused entry, but on hearing that he was one of the top Solidarity revolutionaries the reception desk relented and gave him a good room.

Mr Andrzej Slowik, Palka's boss in the Lodz Solidarity chapter, has also returned to his home town. Once a key negotiator on economic reform and the Solidarity union for farmers, Mr Slowik became seriously ill during imprisonment.

Long hunger strikes had weakened him so much that he collapsed only weeks before the amnesty for all 652 political prisoners was declared last weekend. More than 20,000 prisoners of a total of some 35,000 offenders, mainly common criminals, have been released. Half the political prisoners have been freed, although the four Solidarity advisers who were in the dissident KOR group are still in jail.

Families of the dissidents believe that the seven Solidarity leaders, some of whom live outside Warsaw, will be released before the most dangerous prisoners of all, the four KOR dissidents, are allowed to leave. All 11 leaders and advisers were facing charges of preparing to overthrow the state by force.

Did football turn island against the British?

From Mario Mediano
Kastellorizo

Allegations that British troops occupying Kastellorizo between 1943 and 1945 looted the deserted homes of wealthy islanders, then started fires to destroy the evidence of their crimes, are being questioned by some Kastellorizans.

They speak of sea captains from the other Dodecanese islands, especially Symi, Nisyros and Kalymnos who, after Italy's capitulation in 1943, fled with their caiques to the Middle East via Kastellorizo. They are alleged to have traded Kastellorizan valuables in the markets of the Levant.

Mr Agapitos Venetis, who runs a small restaurant here and is the local National Bank representative, says the British military could perhaps be accused of negligence in protecting the possessions of the inhabitants after ordering their evacuation because of German air raids, "but looting - never."

"It is absurd to claim that British soldiers stole our sewing machines, carpets and furniture, then were allowed to take them aboard troopships to sell in Cyprus or elsewhere," he said. "Some souvenirs, yes, but no more."

Mr Venetis says his father's American-made radiogram, the only one on the island, and a large mirror with a gilded frame turned up in the Turkish port of Kas, opposite Kastellorizo. "The Turks told us they had bought them from Greek sea captains during the war."

Even those who are convinced that British and Indian troops were responsible for the looting agree, on further probing, that there was probably a small "mafia" of officers and men working in collusion with Greek caique captains.

Papa-Yiorgis, the island's only priest, heard that Symi caique owners had done a lot of pilfering on the island. But it was a British major, he insisted, who stole an icon of Saint Constantine from his church.

He had returned it when his wife fell incurably ill in Cyprus and he realized, after a dream, the magnitude of the sacrilege. Dr Vangelis Hatziyannakis, an Athens surgeon who is president of the "Kastellorizans Everywhere Association", says his mother gave the key of their island home to the British commanding officer on the island.

"When we returned from a refugee camp in the Middle East two years later we found the house an empty shell," he said. After repatriation in 1945, he added, there had been recriminations between those who had returned first and the others who accused them of stealing some of their valuables.

Dr Hatziyannakis believes anti-British feeling here was triggered shortly after the end of the war, when British troops invited a Turkish football team for a match on the island and hoisted the Turkish flag next to the Union Jack on the castle to honour them.

The islanders, who are passionately Greek, suspected that this was the first step to surrendering the island to Turkey, not to Greece. They stormed the castle and, after a scuffle with the British soldiers, tore down the Turkish flag.

An inexplicable paradox is that none of the ruins of modern homes that the British are supposed to have set on fire in Kastellorizo show any evidence of a conflagration. There is impact damage, probably due to the great earthquake of 1926, or the German air raids of 1943, but above all there is decay, the result of the great exodus of the islanders to Australia.

War-time looting and burning blamed on Greek sea captains



Ruins with a view: Emigration left many Kastellorizo homes in ruins. Right, the island priest, Papa-Yiorgis.

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The increase follows another much contested rise earlier this month of 22 centimes on a litre of petrol, which will produce an estimated Fr6bn in a year. Petrol prices, which have gone up by 9 per cent since last Christmas, are expected to go up again by 10 centimes in the middle of August.

The unions, the Communists and even many Socialists are outraged by what they see as a totally unsocialist and hypocritical measure. They complain that the Government is simply taking away with one hand what it is giving with the other, and that the worst-off will suffer most.

"What good does it do to cut direct taxes if the loss to the public exchequer is compensated by one (indirect) surtax after another?" The Communist daily, *L'Humanite*, asked in a front page editorial yesterday. "It is certainly not the best tonic for jobs, economic growth and the modernization of our economy."

President Mitterrand has promised not only to cut direct taxes and levies by one per centage point next year from their present record level of nearly 45 per cent of gdp, but also to continue that trend in later years with the aim of reducing the fiscal burden to 42 per cent of gdp, while keeping the budget deficit to no more than 3 per cent of gdp.

The Opposition has also denounced the Government's "double language" on taxes. Earlier this week, M Alain Poirer, president of the Opposition-dominated Senate, proposed that Mitterrand should withdraw his plans for a referendum and submit the question, on the extension of the use of referendums, to both houses of Parliament sitting together. The President turned down M Poirer's proposal.

Both the main opposition parties have now decided to throw caution to the winds and to call for the total withdrawal of the idea of an extension of the referendum to cover civil liberties although it was the Opposition itself which has demanded a referendum on the private schools issue.

Storm of protest as French phone charges rise again

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A storm of protest has greeted the French Government's decision to put up telephone charges by a further 16 per cent from August 1, bringing the total increase this year to 25 per cent.

In a full year the increase should bring in an extra Fr6bn (nearly £700m), which the Government needs to help make up for the anticipated loss of about Fr80bn in revenue due to President Mitterrand's promise to cut direct taxes and levies by the equivalent of 1 per cent of gdp.

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"What good does it do to cut direct taxes if the loss to the public exchequer is compensated by one (indirect) surtax after another?" The Communist

Promise by Muldoon to stand down

From W. P. Reeves
Wellington

The dominion council of the opposition National Party agreed yesterday that Sir Robert Muldoon should stay as leader at least until February, when the leadership issue comes up again.

This endorses the decision of the parliamentary wing last week. Although Sir Robert had told party MPs he was unlikely to contest the leadership next time, some councillors went into yesterday's meeting wanting a firmer commitment on his readiness to stand down.

Council sources said Sir Robert, convinced that he would not stand again next February, the council is to look at its rules to ensure the party leaders' hold on office is conditional upon its continued approval, and not on that of the parliamentary wing alone.

Sir Robert was warmly applauded by delegates to the party's annual conference, which he addressed last night.

Carrington seeks calm in Aegean

From Our Correspondent
Athens

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, has assured Greek leaders that he will do his utmost to help solve the problems between Greece and Turkey that have bedevilled the Western alliance for the past 10 years.

He has talks with President Karamanlis and Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister, and had extensive briefing sessions at the Foreign Minister, and Ministry of Defence. Some 2,000 demonstrators responded to a call from the Communist-led peace movement and staged a protest march against Nato in Athens on Thursday night.

Lord Carrington told journalists that if the "difficulties" between Greece and Turkey were easy to solve, they would have been solved long ago. "We must continue to do what we can to see that they are solved."

Aware of the Greek Prime Minister's ideological aversion to Nato's military image, Lord Carrington took pains to emphasize to him the political role of the alliance in reducing East-West tension and promoting coexistence and arms controls.

Such was Greek hostility towards Lord Carrington's predecessor, Dr Josef Luns, who acquired a reputation here as a "cynical pro-Turk," that the new Secretary-General's visit was a success before it began.



CITIZENSHIP LOST: Zola Budd arrived with the British team for the Olympics in Los Angeles where she learnt yesterday that she had officially lost her South African citizenship. Her name, followed by that of her father, Mr Frank Budd, appeared at the top of a list of 18 people who have either renounced or have been deprived of South African citizenship, which was published in the *Government Gazette* issued in Pretoria yesterday. The list did not include her mother, Mrs Tossie Budd. The *Gazette* notice states that Zola and her father's renunciation of South African citizenship became effective from May 30.

Portuguese Parliament approves security law

Lisbon (Reuters) - The Portuguese Parliament yesterday approved a controversial internal security law which the Opposition had attacked as a return to an era of repression.

Although many Government deputies also expressed misgivings about the law's wide-ranging powers, Dr Mario Soares's year-old coalition won comfortably because of the two-thirds majority of Socialists and Social Democrats in the House. The vote was 138 to 79 with two abstentions.

Provisions in the Bill for searches without warrant, telephone tapping and detentions have aroused fears of a return to the methods of the dreaded PIDE - secret police which provided the backbone of the 48-year dictatorship that was overthrown in 1974.

Dr Soares, the Prime Minister, was detained 11 times by the PIDE before going into exile in France. He said, in support of the Bill, that the tough measures were essential to defend the state against terrorism and organized crime. He added that similar laws existed in most other West European countries. Senior Rui Machete, the Justice Minister, has admitted that some of the Bill's proposals will need to be changed and toned down by Parliament during amendments which followed yesterday's vote on the general provision.

The Bill must be voted later clause by clause with amendments, then passed to the President for promulgation. It may also be referred to the Constitutional Tribunal before becoming law.

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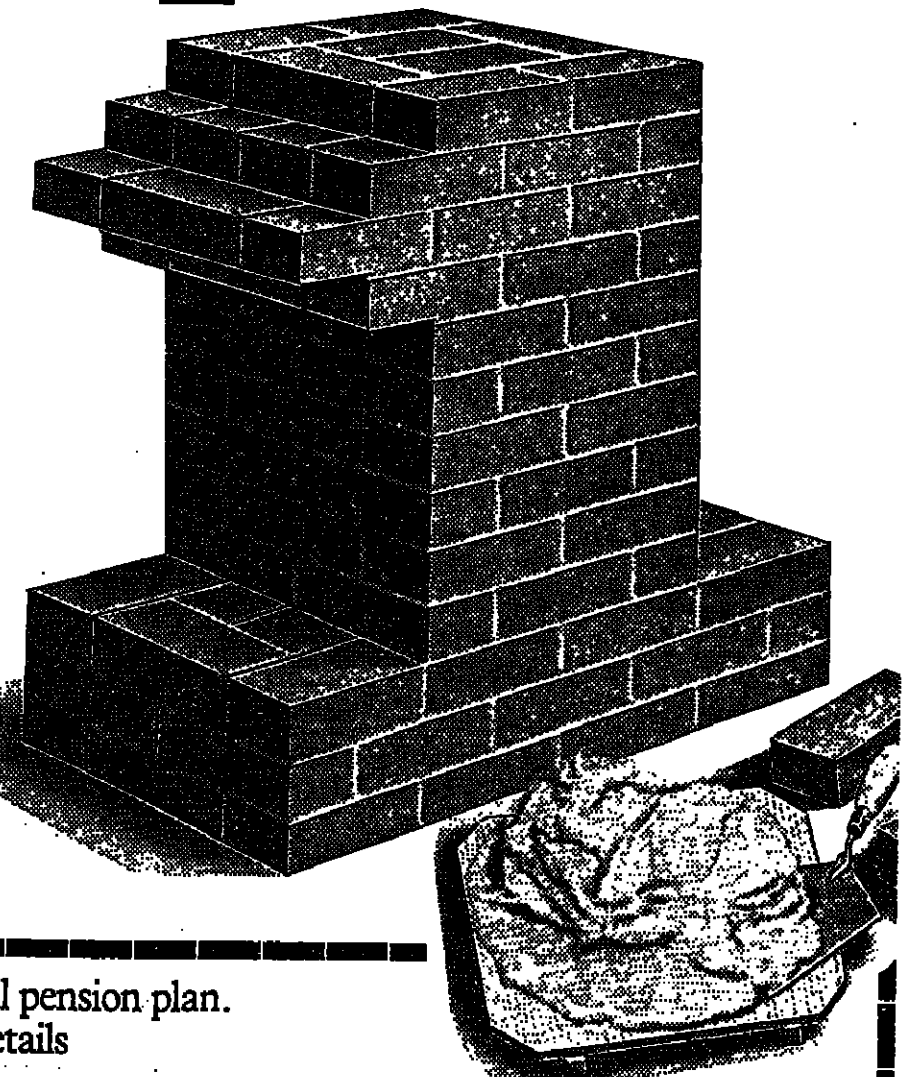
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Blistering Soviet attack on W Germany could threaten Honecker visit

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

In a manifest attempt to torpedo the visit here in September of Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, the Russians yesterday launched a blistering attack on West Germany, bitterly denouncing its latest agreement with East Berlin and the rapprochement between the two German states.

Culminating a clearly orchestrated campaign against West German "militarism and revanchism", *Pravda* accused Bonn of interfering in East Germany's internal affairs and trying to force the country to make concessions on basic issues affecting its own sovereignty.

To this end West Germany was using "economic levers and political contacts", a clear reference to Bonn's latest DM950m loan to East Berlin, which is to be matched by concessions on travel for pensioners. *Pravda* accused Bonn of pursuing a nationalist policy aimed at undermining the building of socialism in the German Democratic Republic.

The charges, ominously reminiscent of the first impressions of Soviet anger at developments in Poland four years ago, are seen here as directed more at East Germany than at the Federal Republic.

Pravda used Herr Honecker's own words to give him an indirect warning not to go any further in seeking better relations with Bonn, quoting his assurance to a party congress that the GDR would rebuff all attempts by revanchist circles in West Germany to keep the German question open.

The paper also ridiculed as "absurd" claims by Chancellor Kohl to speak in the name of all Germans - a claim which was strikingly made by Herr Honecker himself last autumn when appealing to Bonn over the missile issue.

standing and reconciliation by propagandistic reproaches.

He said the Soviet Union and several Warsaw Pact countries had recently stepped up attacks on West Germany, but refused to speculate on the dangers this posed to Herr Honecker's visit.

The *Pravda* article indicated that the Russians are angry that relations between the two Germanies have continued to improve after the deployment of new Nato missiles - something they long threatened would bring about a new "ice-age" in East-West relations.

In another pointed reproach to Herr Honecker, the paper said relations between the two German states could not be separated from the overall international situation. This had been worsened by Nato's "crusade" against socialism.

The paper noted that the Kohl Government has spoken of continuity in its *Opolitik* and in relations with East Germany. "The practice of the past few years does not show that one can rely on such a declaration", it added.

Conciliatory speech by Castro

Cienfuegos, Cuba (Reuters) - President Fidel Castro said Cuba is willing to continue its dialogue with the United States, but that it is better prepared than ever to defend itself against "imperialist aggression."

"We are ready to continue talks about immigration problems," he told a 100,000 crowd on Thursday referring to discussions recently begun with Washington after the visit of the Rev Jesse Jackson.

"By force nobody can achieve anything," he added, saying that Cuba would support any efforts to "lessen the dangers of war madness."

In what Western diplomats described as a conciliatory speech, the Cuban leader seldom referred to Central America and made no personal attacks on President Reagan. But he made clear his views on Washington's policy towards Cuba. "This senseless policy has to cease," he said.

He said neither capitalism nor communism could impose a social change on the other without being destroyed in the attempt.

Diplomats noted the absence of the terms such as "fascist" which President Castro had previously used to describe the Reagan Administration, and said he appeared more at ease than usual during the three-hour speech.

But he emphasized that Cuba had stepped up its defences and recruited another 500,000 men and women into the territorial militia, taking the total to 1.2 million. He was speaking during celebrations marking the thirty-first anniversary of a guerrilla attack which began the revolution which swept him to power in 1959.



Winning smile: Mr Venero Pagano, a pensioner, with his wife Angelina, after he won a record \$20m (£15m) in New York's state lottery

Muslims defend Marcos against Catholic attacks

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Philippine Muslim leaders yesterday denounced the Roman Catholic Church for meddling in Government affairs, claiming it used the pulpit for false and destructive attacks against the Government.

The unprecedented attack on the predominant Christian church follows mounting criticism of the 18-year-old Marcos regime by the Muslim hierarchy.

The Ulama Council of the Philippines, which claims to represent all Muslim theologians and scholars deplored the open support and encouragement which, it said, certain sectors of the church, including

its hierarchy, gave to anti-Government demonstrations and communist activities of labour and student groups.

The attack by the pro-Government council followed the issue of pastoral letters criticizing human rights abuses, the President's decree-making powers and the deployment of "secret marshals", who have killed scores of suspected criminals.

● **MARSHALS DISBANDED:** President Marcos disbanded the "secret marshals" yesterday (AP reports). For five weeks, they had been assigned to "ride shotgun" on buses and other public transport vehicles.

Agca's credibility in doubt

Pope plot trial faces delay

From Peter Nichols, Rome

There are fears that the long-awaited trial of the five Turkish and four Bulgarians alleged to have plotted to murder the Pope in May, 1981 may not reach the courts this year.

Mr Sergei Antonov, the only Bulgarian involved who is actually in custody here, was arrested in November, 1982 and like the others is awaiting a formal decision to be sent for trial. Hearings this autumn had been envisaged when it appeared likely that the decision of Signor Mario Martella, the investigating judge, to have the men brought to trial would have been made by the end of this month. There is now talk of September for this procedural move while the impression is growing that the prosecution's case will be far from easy to argue, unless it can be strengthened.

According to Mr Antonov's defending counsel, there is insufficient evidence to warrant sending the men for trial, and on the defence's side there is a feeling that there would be no question of doing so if the investigation had not become so closely involved with political issues, including the theory that the plot was organized by the Bulgarian secret services at the behest, or with at least the approval of, the KGB.

After this sensational theorizing, and the length of time dedicated to the investigation, Italian justice would suffer the effects of an acute anti-climax, to put it mildly, if Signor Martella came to the conclusion that there was after all no case to answer.

Signor Anotino Albano, the public prosecutor, ended his own report with a recommendation that the nine be tried. But he makes no secret of his belief that he has a difficult case to handle. A close reading of his



Mehmet Ali Agca and Sergei Antonov

still technically secret report underlines some of the more formidable difficulties.

The case is based almost entirely on the confession of Mehmet Ali Agca, the young Turkish terrorist who seriously wounded the Pope in St Peter's square in May, 1981. He is responsible for implicating all the others. Yet the prosecutor insists on the "one great complex problem" of Agca's credibility and this after months of a highly publicized inquiry. That is one of the problems the prosecution will have to face, knowing that Agca has on occasion lied and on two occasions has retracted testimony.

The prosecution's case is that Agca escaped from a Turkish prison late in 1979, went first to Iran, which he left after the American failure to release the US hostages in Tehran and then moved to Sofia, where he was in contact with the Sofia-based Turkish Mafia.

It was here that the Bulgarian secret services are supposed to have approached him with the offer of money to kill the Pope. The supposed motive was that the Polish Pope's policies were endangering the stability of Eastern Europe. Yet Agca was asked in August to shoot the Pope the following May. In the

meantime he wandered about Europe.

He said he was covering his tracks, but according to the defence, he was leaving tracks everywhere. The nine months' wait would be explainable if a detailed procedure had been planned. But, in the phrase of the defence, the shooting in St Peter's Square was "an artisan affair."

If one accepts some sort of Bulgarian connexion (which the defence still denies), the problem remains of where the original initiative came from: the Turkish Mafia, the right-wing extremist Turkish terrorist movement known as "the Grey Wolves" to which Agca belonged, or the Eastern secret services. It is worth recalling that as far back as November, 1979 Agca was publicly stating his intention of killing the Pope.

The prosecutor makes it clear that a vital meeting took place in March, 1981 at the Sheraton Hotel in Zurich between Agca, his supposed accomplice and the leaders of the Turkish Mafia and of the "Wolves": in a word, all Turks. They discussed an agreement with the Bulgarians for the payment of 3m Deutschmarks. Later, the "Wolves" supplied Agca with the famous Browning revolver and it was to the head of the "Wolves" in Germany that Agca telephoned to have the final all-clear to go ahead with the shooting.

It could be argued that the plot was essentially Turkish with a certain amount of financial and logistical support from the Bulgarians. This would explain why the Bulgarians left Mr Antonov at his job with the Bulgarian airline in Rome, without diplomatic immunity, until his arrest in 1982. If he had really been deep in the plot to kill the Pope, this oversight would be inexplicable.

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David Wade

A Little Like Drowning

The Hampstead programme shows the picture of a 1920s couple dressed in their Sunday best superimposed against a dreamlike seascape. It is a good image for Anthony Minghella's play which gives you the sensation of discovering a box of old photographs in the attic, a few sharp surviving fragments from lives that have long been washed away.

Mr Minghella has no great tale to tell. Alfredo marries Leonora, settles into indissoluble Italian Roman Catholic wedlock, and then deserts her for an English widow when she has grown fat with childbirth. Disowned by his father, he quits Italy with his mistress and moves to Dublin, where he scratches a living as a bingo caller, living long enough to see his daughter married, and then collapsing over a card game.

Look, the author is saying, these are insignificant people and they deserve your attention. In such a case, everything depends on the manner of presenting the evidence, and Mr Minghella has chosen that of the memory play, conducted under the eye of the widowed old Leonora. She sits gossiping with her grandchild, and looks on moist-eyed at the recollection of her disappointing wedding night (with her shame-faced bridegroom slashing his

hand to provide the obligatory blood-stained sheet), and the marital crises leading up to the act of desertion.

As Constance Chapman plays her, still spry for a game of hopscotch but also inflicting coarse disclosures on her child companion, it is hard to decide whether she is an old dear or a public menace; and the ambiguity increases once the action moves outside her recollection. Here Mr Minghella shows some cunning tricks with theatrical memory, as where Julia (the mistress) sinks into Alfredo's embrace carrying a hot pan which she deposits on the grimly observing Leonora, in whose hands it is stone cold.

There is also the trick of presenting a gradually widening gap between the events as recreated and as seen through Leonora's fantasy. She is convinced that one day Alfredo will return to her; and in the end this self-confirming dream comes true when she regains his possessions, and his dead body, and walks into the sea to resume her rightful place beside him in a double grave.

It is a long-prepared and chillingly unforgetting conclusion; and I wish that more of the play showed the same power of design. What it does possess is the honesty to show the contradictions and complexities of human behaviour without passing judgment. But, whether or not the piece is a memoir, it seems insufficiently released from its source material to embark on a life of its own.

THE ARTS

Theatre

Alfredo, the little man as hero



Young Leonora (Jane Gurnett) with Alfredo (Alfred Molina): lust, guilt and joy

So far as character is concerned, though, John Dove's production wins award attention for Alfredo. Alfredo Molina plays him as a little man who experiences the primary human

emotions: on a heroic scale, discharging direct revelations of lust, guilt, and joy without ever overstepping the idiom of an Italian immigrant dealer in amusement machines. - MORG

Hood's Julia is also a remarkable study of the pains and pleasures experienced by the eternal other woman.

Irving Wardle

Television

Radio A mighty river of serials

BBC Radio's current preoccupation with getting and keeping listeners is most obviously manifested in the appearance of *Rollercoaster* and, more recently and horrendously, *The Colour Supplement*. But there are more ways of keeping listeners with it than denying them the opportunity to switch off: it also helps if things come at them in weekly episodes, so is it chance or design, I wonder, if recent weeks and this past week in particular have seen the start of a mighty river of serials and serials, some of them in places where one-offs are the norm?

As an example, *Going for Broke* (Radio 4, Wednesday, director, Glynn Dearman) was the first of six in an Afternoon Theatre series of comedies by George Baker which is apparently threatening to devote a total of 270 minutes to the doings of John Morse (Andrew Sachs) and his one-man-and-a-secretary broking business, his cowboy builder, his daughter, his ex-wife, his current high-powered woman. Good for Mr Baker's domestic economy, no doubt, but unless future episodes show a great improvement on the first - a rather modest sit-com - I don't see much in this venture for the reputation of Afternoon Theatre, which will continue to be better served by the likes of Peter Terson's *Poole Harbour* (Radio 4, July 24, director, Shaun MacDougall).

This story of an apparently school boy - rather engagingly played by Thomas Henderson - who absconds in a huff from his holiday party into the islands and mudflats of Poole, provided brist, authentic dialogue and an attractive interplay of characters: the lad himself looking for attention, his part, however, mother benefit of all illusions about, though not of great affection for, her charges; her junior male colleague with all illusions more or less intact; the boy's imprudent mother, milking her son's disappearance for every possible personal advantage and getting away with it.

On Wednesday's series succeeds series: *Fride of the Parlor*, a history of home music making, has given way to *Folk for the Job* (Radio 4, compiler and producer, Heather Williams), anthologies of folk songs, poetry and prose associated with particular occupations. It began last week with the railwayman, a rugged, romantic occupation, but one represented here by some distinctly bloodless material. It seemed that the audience at a folk club in Gwent probably thought so too.

If both these Radio 4 series badly need to pick up, Radio 2 made sure that *Broadway Babes* (Friday, producer, David Rayvern Allen) got off to an explosive start which its presenter, Sheridan Morley, may be hard put to maintain. Taking Ethel Merman as his first subject, he left us in no doubt of why she earned the nickname "the golden foghorn". After thirty minutes of this huge, brassy voice belting out lovely familiar numbers and her own reminiscences with equal verve, the second programme about Gertrude Lawrence probably couldn't help but sound a bit pastel-coloured - although I suspect that last night's obsequious to Mary Martin, which I've yet to hear, will have delivered another therapeutic blast to the ear-drums.

David Wade

Central's situation comedy, *I Thought You'd Gone*, written by Peter Jones and Kevin Laffan, is another indication that the demographic shift to an ageing population has been noted. ITV obviously judge that Friday is a good night for catching the middle-aged in a reflective mood and ready for a rueful chuckle for this new series is immediately followed by *Shine On Harvey Moon*, the subtleties of which are perhaps best appreciated by those whose memory banks were accepting deposits in the mid-Forties.

Mr Jones has sited his little scene on contemporary mores in the country to which he and his wife, played by Pat Heywood, have fled from south London. It is the hope of Mr Jones, or Mr Bodley as he is, that he has left behind not only his neighbours but his grown-up children and their problems. It is, of course, essential to the comedy that his hope is proved vain.

Last night found the Bodleys moving in to their rustic dream with some glee and rather a

surfeit of suggestions that sex isn't over at 50 or so. Recovering from the vandalism of the removal men, those well-known and not entirely undeserving butts of British humour, they have to take in first the power boat despatched to them by one son, another escaping a hiccup in his marriage, and, the following morning, one of his children.

With this concatenation of disastrous events in the first episode, it is difficult to see how Messrs Jones and Laffan will continue, but experience, and Mr Jones certainly has that, has its uses.

Given that it was pretty easy to guess how things would go after the first five minutes, they did quite well with the first effort. Mr Jones's sense of timing is acute as well as practical. He understands that expressions and silences can play a part in comedy. I don't think the prospect of watching the next would deter me from a walk on a fine evening but that may be another sign of age.

Dennis Hackett

Jazz

Ella Fitzgerald Grosvenor House

I was going to say that in the Fifties, between bobbysoxer and Beatles, the name of Nelson Riddle was an infallible guarantee of quality, but of course it still is. The success of his recent recorded collaboration with Linda Ronstadt, the former rock singer, proved that no one has more fully mastered the art of arranging the high quality popular song, exemplified by the work of Jerome Kern and the Gershwin, and that the art itself is practically ageless.

Linda Ronstadt believed that Riddle's talent could speak to a younger generation, and she was right, but the crowd for Thursday night's concert, the first of three at Grosvenor House in aid of the NSPCC, was in the main present to celebrate the renaissance of the triumphs of yesteryear, when Riddle took a large share of the credit for some of the finest and most popular recordings of Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee and, of course, Ella Fitzgerald.

As he took the stage in front of a large orchestra made up of British musicians, it became apparent that legends do not come very much more discreet. It took only a few minutes, however, for the force of his musical character to become apparent. During "Speakeasy

Blues", taken from the score of the television series *The Untouchables*, he defined a climate that for subtlety and economy of means could be compared only to Gil Evans. The lyrical troubadour Don Lusher, the brilliant young alto saxophonist Jamie Talbot and the resolute guide, it is difficult to see how Messrs Jones and Laffan will continue, but experience, and Mr Jones certainly has that, has its uses.

Riddle's pleasing touch with instrumental combinations and his ability to vary the internal density of the orchestra were particularly clear in his famous arrangement of "I've Got You Under My Skin" and in "Smoky Mountain Country", an exquisite miniature for woodwind and strings.

When Miss Fitzgerald made her regal appearance, it was to renew a collaboration that began more than 25 years ago. It is hard to imagine that, nowadays, she could sound more comfortable and secure in any other setting. The vivacity of "From This Moment On", "Satin Doll" and "I Could Have Danced All Night" rolled back the years, counterpointed by occasional bursts of fine balladry, such as a reading of "Blue Moon" that, by creating five minutes or so a complete universe of its own, demanded to be wrapped up and taken home.

Richard Williams

Promenade Concert

BBCSO/Janowski
Albert Hall/Radio 3

The arrival of Marek Janowski to the Proms could well turn out to be one of the best things of the season: his intellectual and spiritual reading of Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony on Thursday night will certainly be remembered as such.

Those whose ears have already followed his progress in this country, gathering in his recorded *Ring* or watching changes in Liverpool, will recognize his method of air-conditioning an orchestra with his baton. By quickening each individual response, the corporate body becomes an extraordinarily alert, expectant channel for whatever is up his sleeve.

Here, the subconscious as well as the conscious recall of the first movement's lurching rhythms was all the sharper for their initial painstaking tempo definition. And when Alan Civil's horn entered the second

movement, it moved on already hallowed ground. The potency of Janowski's control of the big tune, too, owed as much to his approach to it. Rarely has the pizzicato shock after the timpani roll been backed by a more significant silence.

The organic energy which fuelled the finale and the long lines of insight which carried along with it had already stimulated a revelatory performance of Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto. And if it seemed no less a concerto for orchestra, this had as much to do with Peter Donohoe's approach as with moments of irresistible delight from the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Donohoe's virtuosity concentrated itself deep inside the score: it was the composing imagination as much as the fingers which gripped you by the throat. His central variations were a masterpiece of rapt recreation, as melancholy and audacity tripped over each other's toes.

Hilary Finch

A skeleton in the cupboard

Corpsel
Apollo

Readers of Bryan Appleyard's Tuesday Spectrum feature on this new thriller, presented by Robert Fox and Julian Seymour, will have been intrigued by his remark that it all depended on one unrepeatable trick.

What is it? On the first night there seemed one promising possibility: the coincidence of the play's date of December 11, 1936, Keith Baxter's first entrance dressed as Queen Mary, and the presence in the audience of a distinguished brother of Mr Fox's who has given a well-known portrayal of Edward VIII.

Wrong. The setting (piled fascinatingly with *Eric-a-bra* by Alan Tagg) is not Fort Belvedere but the gritty Soho flat of a long-resting actor, who may only have assumed the Queen Mary persona to shoplift at Fortnum's but is generally a master of disguise. At least Mr Baxter is, who has to play both the penniless actor and his heartless plutocratic twin. With many a Shakespearean quote, including Richard III's comparison of himself to a chameleon (which explains the creepy poster), the old ham plans to bump off his brother and steal his identity and riches, using a desperate old Irish villain (Milo O'Shea) as his hit-man.

What with Mr Baxter playing both brothers, and apparently out to get Mr O'Shea, maybe one brother is impersonating the other. Or maybe the other

never exists at all? With stage blood ready to fake false deaths more plausibly than in most ultra-clever thrillers, the playwright's options are endless. And with a policeman (Richard Hampton) invading the victim's flat to sell raffle tickets, and an underpaid and oversexed landlady (Joyce Grant) peering the would-be murderer in his hair, there is plenty that might interestingly go wrong.

Throughout an enjoyable first act, ending in a neatly sensational curtain, it seems that Gerald Moon has found a singularly artful plot to combine suspense and comedy, married only by indifferent actorish jokes that still remain from the first draft. Nevertheless, it still looks closer to *Death* than *Cowardice*; then the implausibilities, black themselves felt. Apart from a murderer opening the door when he might have lain doggo, there is a skeleton (roughly speaking) in the play's cupboard in the shape of a dubious passage, crucial for deceiving the audience but logically hard to explain.

Anthony Masters

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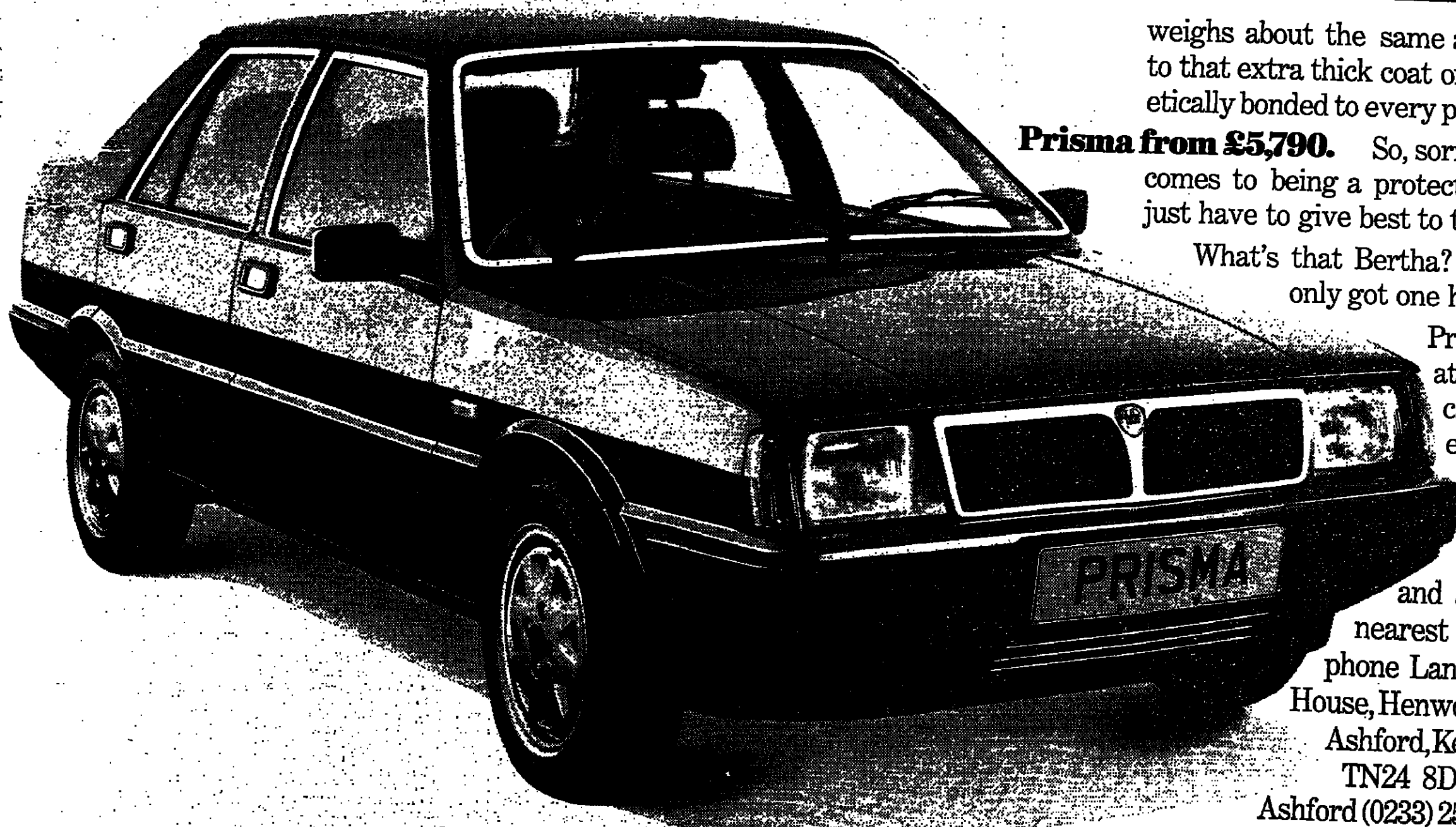
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SPORTING DIARY

Playing for kicks

As Newcastle United contemplate the awful prospect of life after Keegan, Keegan himself is facing the challenge of playing football for the Varities Club de France. Keegan has already confirmed that he will be available for the club's French Cup second-round match on September 16, and could make his first appearance for the Frenchmen on September 5, when his new team plays a curtain-raiser before a match between France and Inter Milan.

The team comprises mostly retired top-flight footballers, and the occasional oddball from other sports - Yannick Noah, for example. The side is run by a French television commentator, Thierry Roland, best known for his on-air remarks addressed to Scottish referee who refused French penalty claims in a World Cup qualifier. "Excuse me Monsieur Footie," he said. "But you are a swine."

Helpings served

Martina Navratilova wants a game with Jimmy Connors. Or possibly Bjorn Borg. "But I think I would have a better chance against Jimmy," she has already admitted. She has already admitted, as Miss Navratilova modestly admits, "I might have some trouble with his serve." The idea behind the proposed match across the sexual frontiers is to raise money for the Youth Foundation for Disadvantaged Children.

© Sad story: T. G. Askwith won the Diamond Sculls at Henley in 1933. Now his house has been burglarized and the goblet he won has gone. He hopes they were thieves of mercy and will let him have it back.

Naked ambition

It is disappointing that practically the only sport unrepresented at the Olympic Games is nude volleyball. Last year a British team contested the first European championships in the sport of nude volleyball, in which three men and three women must be on court at all times. Competitors included top division Dutch and German players (from the clothed version of the game) including a German international. The Britons came third.

Shoot to the top

Crossbow shooting has become a growth sport. Last week, the second World Field Crossbow Championships were held at Dudley and won by a Finn who set a new world record as he did so. Nicholas Aston of Wolverhampton won the world junior title and his father Chris was the top Briton in the senior event, finishing thirteenth. To improve the occasion a local brewery, Simpkins, brewed a special "Bolt Ale" while a local group helped things along by performing fertility dances.

BARRY FANTONI



"Apparently, she said it was just like Moscow, but with more to buy"

True grit

Truemanism: this time from the man himself. F. S. T. was in the middle of telling us the Lancashire bowler Michael Watkinson was bowling incorrectly ("His head and shoulders are all wrong at the point of delivery") when Watkinson interrupted his flow by taking a wicket with the next ball. Trueman's recovery was instantaneous: Watkinson's action was fine "if he can get batsmen to play shots like that". A fiver to Barry Toberman for that one.

© War and Peace: The Imperial War Museum team was roundly defeated by the Victoria and Albert Museum in their recent cricket match.

Face value

Could you face a get-well card bearing the face of Lester Piggott? Or a Valentine's Day card with the features of Jocky Wilson, the toothless darts? Perhaps not, but Media Star Cards have signed up 40 sports stars, such as men like I. T. Botham, the footballer, Alex Higgins, Steve Ovett, Glenn Hoddle and virtually every bankable name one could think of. Cards contain a facsimile autograph and an entry form for a competition that gives you a chance to meet the man on the front. Frank Boyd, the managing director, declared bullish: "We've already sold over a million cards. Pre-sales for Christmas are the biggest in the market's history." He added: "UK sports personalities are the most underplayed sports stars anywhere in the world."

Simon Barnes

D. H. Lawrence wrote the autobiographical novel *Mr Noon* in 1920. Only now is it to be published. In this extract, the hero has his first encounter with Germany



Mr Noon: the lost novel

THE great Isar valley lay beneath them in the spring morning, the pale, icy green river winding its way from the far Alps, coming as it were down the long stairs of the far foot-hills, between shoals of pinkish sand, a wide, pale river-bed coming from far off, with the river twisting from side to side between the dark pine-woods. The mountains, a long rank, were right in the heaven, glittering their snow under the horizon. Villages with the white and black churches lay in the valley and on the opposite hill-slope. It was a lovely, ringing, morning-bright world, for the Englishman vast and glamorous. The sense of space was an intoxication for him. He felt he could walk without stopping on to the far north-eastern magic of Russia, or south to Italy. All the big, spreading glances of medieval Europe seemed to envelop him.

"Not isn't it beautiful?" said the professor.

"Beautiful," said Gilbert. The bigness that was what he loved so much. The bigness, and the sense of an infinite multiplicity of connections. There seemed to run gleams and shadows from the vast spaces of Russia, a yellow light seemed to struggle through the great Alp-knot from Italy, magical Italy, from the north, from the massive lands of Germany, and from far-off Scandinavia one could feel a whiteness, a northern, sub-arctic whiteness. Many magical lands, many magical peoples, all magnetic and strange, uniting to form the vast patchwork of Europe. The glamorous vast multiplicity, all made up of differences, medieval, romantic differences, this seemed to break his soul like a chrysalis into a new life.

For the first time he saw England from the outside: tiny she seemed and tight, and so partial. Such a little bit among all the vast rest. Whereas till now she had seemed all-in-all in herself. Now he knew it was not so. Her all-in-ness was a delusion of her natives. Her marvellous truths and standards and ideals were just local, not universal. They were just a piece of local pattern, in what was really a vast, complicated, far-reaching design. So he watched the glitter of the range of Alps towards the Tyrol; he saw the pale-green Isar climbing down her curved levels, coming towards him, making for Munich and then Austria, the Danube, the enormous meanderings of the Danube. He saw the white road, which seemed to him to lead to Russia. And he became un-English. His tight and exclusive nationality seemed to break down in his heart.

He loved the world in its multiplicity, not in its horrible oneness, uniformity, homogeneity. He loved the rich and free variegation of Europe, the many-ness. His old obtuseness, which saw everything alike, in one term, fell from his eyes and from his soul, and he felt rich. There were so many, many lands and peoples besides himself and his own land. And all were magically different, and it was so nice to be one among many, to feel the horrible imprisoning oneness and insularity collapsed, a real delusion broken, and to know that the universal landscapes and morals were after all only local and temporal. Gilbert smoked his pipe, and pondered. He seemed to feel a new salt running vital in his veins, like a bird that has got out of a cage, and even out of the room wherein the cage hung.

The two men went back into the village to the inn, where they sat at the bare wooden benches and ate boiled pork and sauerkraut and good black bread and mountain butter

and a delicious ring of cake, and drank beer, while the peasants and farmers and foresters smoked big pipes and talked, and were festive.

After dinner they rose again.

"Now we will walk to the Starnberg lake," and see my wife and my mother-in-law. Yes? Shall we do so? Can you walk so far?"

"How far?"

"Oh, about eight miles, eight miles. But in the wood there will be snow."

So they set off. In the wood, as Alfred said, there was snow. Going between the great beech trees, some of which lay prostrate, there were only patches of snow. But on the paths between the great, dry trunks of the fir there was deep snow still, heavy walking. The fir-woods were dark and vast, impenetrable, and frightening. Gilbert thought of the old Hercynian forest, and did not wonder at the Roman terror. For in the dark and bristly fir-trees, in their vast crowded ranks, the dimness and the subtly crackling silence, there was something as if it were of anti-life, wolvish, magical.

"Ah - yes! Yes!" said Louise, looking at Gilbert's wet and muddy boots.

"I'm not fit to come up either way," said Gilbert.

"Not fit? Oh yes. Take the pantofles. Oh, what does it matter?"

But there was a third occupant of the room - Professor Ludwig Sartorius, from Bonn. He was a middle-aged man with a dark brown beard streaked with grey, a bald forehead, and little, nervous, irascible dark eyes. He was well dressed in a grey manner, in grey, carefully tailored and buttoned; and he wore a handsome tie of an orange

bad, but you will forgive me. - Well then, come and have some tea. And bread and butter. Yes, I know you Englishmen, you want bread and butter with your tea. Come then."

She turned to Maria, and saw the straw slippers.

"Aber! But what are you doing with the pantofles, Maria?" she laughed mockingly.

"The gentleman will change his boots," said the grave-eyed peasant girl.

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colour. Evidently something of a gallant-but of the irascible sort. He shook hands with Gilbert, and seated himself abruptly, only getting out the usual "How do you do, pronounced very German."

The party now settled themselves. The Baroness was at the tea-table, lighting the spirit under the silver kettle. Professor Sartorius sprang up to do it for her, as if a gun had gone off, and fumbled wildly in his well-flamed pockets for matches.

"Oh sit still, sit still, Professor Sartorius," said the Baroness, striking her matches calmly. "I am old enough to light my own tea-kettle, at my age."

And she peered with shrewd, rather screwed-up blue eyes at the spirit flame. It was evident there was no love lost between her and the gallant professor. He sat down looking crosser than ever, whilst poor little Alfred, with his pink face and white hair, shone like a daisy.

"Ah, Ludwig," said the Frau Professor, "tell Alfred about Wendolf."

"No, thank you," cried Alfred. "We must catch the seven-fifty train. Louise, how are you going home?"

"We came in a motor-car," said Louise, whilst Ludwig stood with drawn brows, his little eyes darting from side to side.

A maid was sent to summon the car. Alfred and Gilbert watched Louise drive away with Professor Sartorius. Then they too prepared to catch the train for Munich.

"Ah, the Sartorius," sang the Baroness in her high, lament-voice, "he talks so much. Alfred, when you come to tea with me please do not climb up from the ivy on the wall to the godlike Goethe. Goethe is so beautiful in himself, but not when he is torn to pieces between you and the Sartorius. Let the Sartorius stick to his patching, or we will call him snipper and Schneider - Sartorius."

It was unfortunate that the "ius" of the Bonn professor's name should always get on the nerves of the Baroness. But so it did.

© Estate of Frieda Lawrence Ravagi 1984

Mr Noon is to be published by Cambridge University Press on September 13, price £12.95.

THE younger professor turned and began in German in a rather snarling voice. The Frau Professor - we will call her Louise, because she is Alfred's wife, and it is shorter - settled her skirts and turned her low chair towards Gilbert. The softened light fell from behind her, and threw a shadow from her soft dark hair and her long dark lashes, upon her cheek. Maria came in with a tray, and Gilbert again turned fascinated to the full, dark, motionless face of the girl, with its unsmiling closed lips and meeting dark brows, as she stooped with the tray full under the rim of the lamp which stood on the tea-table. Medieval, remote, and impressive her face seemed, banded above with the black plait of hair.

Louise, sunk in her low chair, her dark-green dress with its pale, metallic lustre, falling rather full round her feet, shaded her brow with her hand and watched Gilbert's face. It looked to her young, and alert, and self-possessed, with its narrow, fine brows, and full dark-blue eyes, and pouting mouth. She watched him closely.

"You look at the maid," she said in a mocking voice. "Is she not beautiful?"

and a delicious ring of cake, and drank beer, while the peasants and farmers and foresters smoked big pipes and talked, and were festive.

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"Ah, the Sartorius," sang the Baroness in her high, lament-voice, "he talks so much. Alfred, when you come to tea with me please do not climb up from the ivy on the wall to the godlike Goethe. Goethe is so beautiful in himself, but not when he is torn to pieces between you and the Sartorius. Let the Sartorius stick to his patching, or we will call him snipper and Schneider - Sartorius."

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Woodrow Wyatt

Teeth behind the Reagan smile

New York

In his acceptance speech at the Democratic Convention last week Mr Mondale made a bid to be the honest politician. "Whoever is inaugurated in January... taxes will go up... Mr Reagan will raise taxes and so will I. He won't tell you. I just did."

The frank pledge sounded a good idea on the night although Americans I spoke to were surprised. But I doubt if Mr Mondale would have given it if he had guessed the extraordinary figures on the economy which were to come out the following week. In the quarter April-June the growth rate was 7.5 per cent, or more than 10 per cent before adjusting for inflation, which in the same quarter dropped to an annual rate of 3.3 per cent. Unemployment, at 7.1 per cent for June, is acknowledged to be continuing its decline. The economy is booming and so are real disposable incomes despite higher interest rates which theoretically should be depressing both. There may be a downturn in 1985 but even that is not certain, the way this unorthodox economy is behaving.

Conventional economists are in confusion. Water is running uphill. Instead of welcoming the rapidly falling inflation the pundits have found a new set of alarm bells to warn of the dangers of deflation. Between 1929 and 1933 prices fell at nearly 7 per cent a year causing, it is said, the Great Depression.

There are sharp falls in the prices of imported raw materials, agricultural goods and textiles. But it would be hard (though economists are trying) to make a case that America is on the verge of the bankruptcies and unemployment of the 1930s. If Mr Mondale believed that he would not be promising increased taxation.

Mr Reagan at his televised press conference on Tuesday night reasonably claimed that he saw no need for raising taxes unless he failed to get government spending down sufficiently far to more or less match tax revenues. Until this week this may have seemed improbable and Mr Mondale's honesty in admitting that tax increases were inevitable had an air of justification and of smart politics. Now, however, the deficit, benefiting from buoyant tax revenues, is another factor defying the accepted rules.

The Council of Economic Advisers has just produced new figures on the deficit. For 1984 it forecast that the federal deficit would be \$180.3bn from which should be subtracted \$58.5bn in state and local surpluses, leaving a net deficit of \$121.8bn. Still a large sum, but the council predicts that the net deficit will fall to \$118.8bn in 1985, \$105.8bn in 1986, \$92.2bn in 1987, \$57.4bn in 1988, \$21.6bn in 1989, turning into a surplus of \$2.4bn in 1990.

If the Council of Economic Advisers is anywhere near right the US deficit is much less alarming than is thought. Interest rates may continue to rise in the near future

but could be falling within a year or so. Meanwhile the ordinary American is feeling steadily better off as his income rises and inflation falls and will not be bothered by high interest rates unless they reach 15 per cent before November.

Mr Mondale will have difficulty in persuading the voter that he ought not to be feeling better off and to prepare for a doom which Mr Mondale cannot specify and which may never occur. His promise to increase taxes seems perverse, but if he discards it he will be attacked for indecisiveness and not knowing what he is talking about.

Mr Mondale is in a similar position to the British Opposition. In both countries the governments have actually been spending more than their predecessors with their oppositions demanding that public spending should be increased yet further which can only be done either by more government borrowing or higher taxes or both. Mr Reagan credibly maintains that it was his major tax cuts which got the economy moving, and Americans will put more reliance on his assertion that he will not raise taxes than on Mr Mondale's claim that Mr Reagan will.

I asked my old friend Kenneth Galbraith why he still thought Mondale would win. "Because he has got the black vote, the Hispanic vote, the ethnic minorities, the unemployed vote and the women's vote," Himmph.

This week in New York I did my best to encourage Arthur Schlesinger Jr, whose confidence in a Mondale victory was based more on hope than fact. I reminded him that when I visited Springfield, Illinois, in 1952

12, 13
Travel: The good health
guide to Mediterranean
beaches; romance of
Ravello; on the
Mafia trail in Sicily

14, 15
In the Garden: Layering
rhododendrons; Values on
decorative furniture;
Drink: '75 clarets; Eating
Out: Prix fixe lunches

THE TIMES Saturday

16, 17
Family Life: Children's
art exhibition; Chess,
Bridge and Prize Concise
Crossword; Review of the
month's classical records

19, 20
The Week: Critical guide
to Television, Radio,
Opera, Music, Dance,
Theatre, Films,
Sport and Auctions

28 JULY-3 AUGUST 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

POLO

Tomorrow the privileged followers of the sport of
princes gather at Windsor for their annual bash -
International Day. Tim Heald traces the game's
pure pedigree and the current state of play

It could almost have been Kipling. Not quite "the hard, dusty Umballa polo ground" but hard and dusty all the same so that the "come-and-go of the little quick booves" sounded like the US cavalry in an old Western and raised smoke at the gallop. No carriages or dog carts or ladies with parasols at Smith's Lawn, Windsor, but a cluster of horseboxes, a Rolls, a Ferrari, and a retired major wearing an harassed expression and brown corduroy trousers. Out on the great field, 300 yards long and 160 wide, eight players and eight ponies shoved and sweated, turned on sixpence, tore breakneck after one another, and strove mightily to strike the little white ball through the opposition goal posts.

"At its best," the major said, winning as one of the players loosed off a more than usually violent expletive, "it's wonderful spectator sport whether you understand it or not. At its worst it's like village cricket - great fun if you know the people involved so you can say 'the squire's been bowled for another duck' or 'my brother's muffed a sitter'." He paused. "Anything in between," he said, "is just a lot of people charging about and shouting at each other."

Tomorrow will see the best charging about and shouting that the polo season has to offer. "International Day" sponsored by Cartier, at the Guards Polo Club in Windsor Great Park. England play the rest of the world; the England second team, including the Prince of Wales, take on Spain.

A very great quantity of champagne will be drunk, much of it by people who wouldn't recognize a high-class piece of *dugabashi* even if they were watching the game and not gawping at the occupants of the Royal Box. No one seems entirely sure whether it's a social occasion with sporting connotations or vice versa. Just like Ascot or Henley.

Polo in this country is a tiny minority sport. About five times as many people play Real Tennis. Even if you count children who compete in pony club teams there are no more than 600 players in Britain. In Argentina, by common consent the leading polo country in the world, there are thousands of players and matches consistently draw large and knowledgeable crowds. In the past Argentinians and their ponies were regular competitors in the English season but the Falklands put paid to that.

Yet foreign polo players still bulk large on the British scene. Many of the "patrons" (pronounced as in *le patron mange ici*) who sponsor their own teams are from abroad - men like the Canadian, Galen Weston and the German Christian Heppel. Both are life members of the Guards Polo Club and Mr Heppel presented the club with its Royal Box. The club's polo manager, Major Willy Lloyd (he of the harassed expression) says, choosing his words carefully, that "over 25

per cent of our members are not ethnically Anglo-Saxon". Apart from rich foreigners, and it is inescapable that this is an expensive pastime, there is also a breed of international player known in polo argot as the "hired assassin". It is not done to talk about polo players as professionals. In the old days of the Argentinians if you called one of them a pro it was a duelling matter. Nevertheless there are a number of very good players with high handicaps who earn five-figure sums from private or commercial sponsors. They are professionals in all but name.

For years British players were overwhelmingly military. The game's origins seem to be Persian (though as past *Times* writers have discovered you can find a host of letters from White's and from Schools of Byzantine Studies if you venture into that area of speculation). But it was the Army who first tried it out in Britain when the 10th Hussars took on the 9th Lancers at Hounslow. In 1847 the first polo match was played at Hurlingham (then a pigeon shooting club) and Hurlingham remained polo's HQ until the Second World War. The game is still run by the Hurlingham Polo Association but has nothing to do with the Hurlingham Club. It is now at Midhurst in the heart of Cowdray country, and no polo is played at the three famous pre-war London venues - Hurlingham, Ranelagh and Richmond.

Some cavalry officers still contrive to play polo but standards have slipped. For one thing soldiers are a lot busier than they used to be and they no longer have the time. Even at the Guards Club they will tell you that only about 15 per cent of the members are present or retired officers.

And yet a brief foray into this very particular little world does suggest that there is still a strong military influence. I have seldom encountered so many majors. There is Willy Lloyd of course. And *The Times's* own polo correspondent, John Watson, is a major too. So is Ronnie Ferguson, Prince Charles's old mentor and the director of International Day. The polo manager at Cirencester is a major. So are the vice chairman and five deputy chairmen of the Guards Club. Earlier this year the Royal Polo Club of Jordan played Windsor Polo for the Godwin Cup. HRH the Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal played at number one in a team which otherwise comprised three lieutenant-colonels and Windsor Park consisted of the Prince of Wales, Captain Cockell and Major Hunter and Major Paton.

It does sometimes look like a world of galloping majors even if, statistically, the majority is a minority. It is slightly odd to find this type of person so involved in commercial sponsorship and so susceptible to wealth - old and new. One major, who did not want to be identified, said he thought there were a lot of very bad hats in the polo world. The word he used and which stuck in my mind was "spoiled" and the implication, quite clear, was that there were some in the polo world who had more money than was good for them.



A mêlée in mid-chukka (above) during last weekend's Texaco Trophy clash at Cowdray Park, involving the Mexican stat, Memo Gracía, the highest handicapped player competing in Britain, his brother Carlos who captains the Rest of the World against England tomorrow and New Zealander Graham Thomas. Tramonana, Carlos's team, beat his brother's Les

Diables Blancs 11-10 in extra time. Above right: Britain's best-known player, the Prince of Wales, who played back for Les Diables, applauds the victors. On his right is Les Diables' longstanding "patron" Guy Wildenstein, and on his left, Memo Gracía. Among the spectators (right) hats tend to be straw, functional or not worn at all. Pima's Number One is a preferred

tippie but as Howard Hipwood demonstrates (below right) champagne from a gold cup is a finalist's reward. Hipwood was on the losing BB's team against Southfield in the Cowdray Gold Cup for the British Open Championship but polo tradition is that the losing side gets first gup. Tomorrow, Hipwood plays at back for England against the Rest of the World.

Conversely there are those who think that elements of the polo establishment are behind the times and stuffy.

The question of money irks many polo players, especially those who do not have a great deal of it (relatively speaking), but who are automatically regarded as millionaires just because they happen to play the game. Some unfashionable country clubs have quite modest subscriptions. You could be a playing member of the new Anglesey Polo Club for £15 a year (as against £300 for the Guards). You could, at least as a novice, ride club ponies. If you are a farmer you may be able to feed and stable your horses more economically than if you are a city banker who has them at livery (probably a minimum £50 a week). A relatively unambitious player, content to compete only in "low goal" polo, can make do with only three ponies, but if you hope to compete in "high goal", which is the top grade, you must own more.

The reason for this is that ponies lack the stamina to play for more than one chukka (each game is divided into seven-and-a-half-minute chukkas). An ace player will sometimes play on a pony which can give of its best for only half a chukka and

only a man with a big string of horses can manage that. Rest Kipling's splendid story, "The Maltese Cat", and you will see that the poor infantry regiment have only three horses apiece. Each horse has to play two chukkas. The smart "Archangels" have six apiece so that theirs are constantly fresh. In Kipling the Archangels lose, but in real life one suspects they would not. Serious players have to be well mounted. Prince Charles, for instance, has 13 ponies (mostly home produced); Galen Weston has 22.

In other sports a rich man can buy a team but he is unlikely to play in it. Not in polo. The handicapping system is organized on a collective basis by adding up the team total. The worst players have a handicap of minus two, the best have 10. It is possible for a rich player with a handicap of, say, one, to surround himself with high handicap stars and actually play at the highest level even though he himself, individually, is not really in that class. It is rather as if Robert Maxwell aspired not

just to buy Manchester United but to play for them too.

Not that there will be any passengers tomorrow. The lowest handicap in the England top team will be six. That is Lord Charles Beresford, scion of a famous polo playing family. The Captain is Julian Hipwood, handicap nine, 38 years old and a lifelong player who was first spotted and trained by a famous Indian player, Rao Raja Hanut Singh. Hipwood, who was once on the books of Bristol Rovers (his brother Howard, also in the team, was with Swindon Town), looks a natural athlete who would have excelled at any game. He is one of the few class players who wears a protective face mask. Another is Prince Charles who has done so ever since he hit Hipwood in the face with a ball. Hipwood luckily suffered no ill effects.

The reluctance of other players to protect their faces has a lot to do, Hipwood says, with the unquestioned "macho" image of the game. It is no coincidence that it is such a high profile business in South America. A quick glance at the rules, let alone a glimpse of play in progress, will make you realize that it is no game for the faint-hearted. For example, rule 22b says "If a player falls off his pony, the Umpire shall not stop

the game". And Prince Philip, who once wrote that umpires, close friends off the field, were "mutton headed dolts, totally ignorant of the simplest rules of the game" has described it as 40 minutes of flashing sticks, galloping ponies, curses, bumps, shouts, hits to warm the heart and misses to chill the spine.

To an outsider, it is, in and out of the saddle, indescribably baffling. It is also indisputably glamorous. There is a wonderful climax to "The Maltese Cat" when the entire match collides with the goalposts (goalposts are still required to be collapsible under the rules of the game) as the "Cat's" gallant rider scores the winning goal. Then the bands strike up with "Zakhme Bagan" and "Ooh, Kafoozahum! Kafoozahum! Kafoozahum!" and "Besides all these things and many more, there was a Commander-in-Chief, and an Inspector-General of Cavalry, and the principal veterinary officer in all India, standing on the top of a regimental coach yelling like schoolboys, and brigadiers and colonels and commissioners, and hundreds of pretty ladies joined the chorus".

It would be fun if tomorrow ended like that. But that's Kipling. And real life is seldom quite as much fun.



It's never too late for some masterly strokes

The earlier you learn the better you will play. Many of the best British players like the Hipwood brothers started with their local pony club (in their case the Vale of the White Horse). If your particular District Commissioner is not keen on polo - and some aren't - then write to Pony Club Headquarters at the National Equestrian Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Kenilworth, Warwickshire (0203/52241). Anyone interested in seeing youngsters playing the game might like to go to the tournament at the Kirtlington Park Polo Club (see below) on August 1. There are 25 teams competing from 10am to 5.30pm.

An adult beginner could do a lot worse than contact Peter Grace's Rangitiki Polo School, Wood Hall, Sunningdale, Berkshire (0990/20399) Mr Grace, an experienced player with a highly successful team sponsored by Piaget Watches says he can teach anyone. He is even trying with Dennis Roussos! For £50 you can have an inaugural lesson, starting off standing on a chair and swinging a stick. Even if you have never ridden before Mr Grace says he will have all but the utterly incompetent playing rudimentary polo within hours.

Another famous school is run by Major Hugh Dawson in Ireland. The address is Whitefield Court, International Polo School, Waterford (353-5 84216). Major Dawson is



The chukka's delight: Window shopping at The Polo Shop in Cowdray Park

author of an instruction book called *Polo Vision* (J. A. Allen, The Horseman's Bookshop, 1 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1, £12.50 plus £1.20 p&p). The polo "bible" still remains a book called *Polo* written by that enthusiastic player, the late Lord Mountbatten, many years ago under the pseudonym "Marco".

If you want to contact a club directly, the leading ones include: The Ash Polo Club, Phoenix Park, Dublin (01776248).

The Anglesey Polo Club: Secretary, Mrs M. Pritchard, Hafan, Tynion, Tregarth, Bangor, Gwynedd (0248 601380). The Cheshire Polo Club: Hon Sec, Michael Taylor, The Polo Office, Mill Pool House, Park Road, Oulton, Tarpotley, Cheshire (082 921 650). Cirencester Polo Club, Polo Office, Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire (0285 3825). The Cowdray Park Polo Club: Secretary, R. Stafford, Cowdray Estate Office, Midhurst, Sussex (073 081 2423/4).

Dundee and Perth Polo Club: Secretary, Mrs M. Pritchard, I. M. DuBoutay, Newmill, Auchtermuchty, Fife. The Edinburgh Polo Club: Secretary G. A. Moore Nisbett, The Drum, Edinburgh (031 884 7215). The Guards Polo Club: Polo Manager, Major W. T. V. Lloyd, Guards Polo Club, Windsor Great Park, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey (0784 34212). The Hem Polo Club: Hon Sec, Miss M. Walker, Rose Cottage, 3 Pools Cottages, Sandpits Rd, Petersham, Surrey (01-448 3287).

The Kirtlington Park Polo Club: Membership Secretary, Mrs Anne Brown, Westfield Farm House, North Lane, Westcott-on-the-Green, Bicester, Oxfordshire (0866 50777). The Rhinefield (New Forest) Polo Club: Hon Sec, P. K. O'Riordan, Durmast Lodge, Bury, Ringwood, Hampshire (04253 2268). The Rutland Polo Club: Hon Sec, C. S. Savill, Pelham House, Barnoldby-le-Beck, Nr Grimsby, South Humberside (0472 822472 or 812218). Silver Leys Polo Club/Carver Military and Civilian Polo Club: Secretary, J. Butler, Seven End Farm, Farnham, Bishops Cleeve, Hertfordshire (0279 74231). The Taunton Vale Polo Club: Hon Sec, Lt Col W. V. P. Crutchley, Browns Farm, Powerstock, Bridport, Dorset (030 885 279). Toulston Polo Club: Secretary, J. Haigh, Bowers Hall, Barksland, Halifax, West Yorkshire. Enquiries: it would hardly be sensible to invest in too much gear before going to school or consulting with your nearest club. But you will naturally get your hat from Locks of St James. It will cost £1.05 (6 St James's Street, London SW1). Leading specialist suppliers are the Polo Shop, The Old Barn, Lodsdown, Nr Petworth, West Sussex (07995 585) and J. Satter and Son, 28 High Street, Aldershot, Hampshire (0252 20692). Bicycle Polo Association of Great Britain: if you don't like horses and/or feel poor but polo-inclined, this association's president and secretary is A. E. Knight, 5 Puffin Gardens, Peel Common, Gosport, Hampshire (0329 285967). Sneath, Lord Cowdray is a patron and the game was played at the 1908 Olympic Games.



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TRAVEL 1

The Mediterranean poses undeniable

health risks, but the future looks

brighter, as Tony Samstag reports

Eat, drink, swim and be wary

Whoever first exhorted the jaded traveller to see Naples and die almost certainly did not have "raw municipal waste-water effluents" in mind. Although the place had already been notoriously pestiferous for centuries, and was to remain so for several more, it required all the linguistic alchemy of modern science to transform the indescribable into words that fall almost benignly, dry as dust, from the lips of academics.

Today's sun-seeker is equally unlikely to set off for a Mediterranean holiday with visions of fecal coliforms and streptococci dancing in his head. This year's tourist population will probably total, as usual, about 100 million, effectively doubling the resident coastal population over the short holiday season. But some of those transients, at least, are bound to carry as unwanted baggage a vague suspicion that the Mediterranean may be hazardous to their health.

They are absolutely right about that. The latest word from the scientists, however, while confirming many of our worst fears about the uncleanness of Mediterranean waters, is also cautiously optimistic. It is still possible to see Naples, even to swim there, and live.

First the bad news. About 85 per cent of the sewage from 120 coastal cities is discharged into the sea with inadequate treatment, or none at all, and most often close to the shore line.

That output, appalling enough to begin with, is of course increased beyond any hope of control by the annual influx of tourists.

Poisonous wastes from factories (primarily heavy metals) and from oil refineries meet and mingle with the sewage; four of the world's largest river systems — the Nile, the Rhône, the Po and the Ebro — carry, with numerous smaller systems, a volume of municipal, agricul-

"Twenty per cent of Mediterranean beaches are unsafe"

tural and industrial waste that far exceeds the contribution of the coastal cities and towns. About 130,000 tons each of mineral oils, nitrogen and phosphorous, 60,000 of zinc, 100 of mercury, 3,800 of lead enter the sea each year. As much as a quarter of all the world's marine oil pollution, most of it from merchant shipping, may end up in the Mediterranean.

The most recent estimates are that 20 per cent of the Mediterranean's beaches are unsafe for bathing, although "unsafe" merits careful definition. Because the sea is virtually landlocked, with the nine-mile-wide Strait of Gibraltar its only inlet and outlet, even if all pollution stopped tomorrow, it would take at least 80 years for the waters to renew themselves. And, at present rates of growth, in the next 40 years the resident population could increase fivefold and the number of tourists double.

The United Nations scientists who study the pollution patterns of the Mediterranean most closely are duty-bound to report their findings as diplomatically as possible, so that no



We do like to be beside the seaside: Scientists are now more optimistic about the cleanliness of Mediterranean beaches

country will take umbrage (and lose valuable tourist income) by being singled out as "dirtier" than any other. "The UN Environment Programme, Unep, has mapped 13 obfuscatory 'regional divisions' for sampling purposes; armed with metres of data and a computer it is just about possible to work out which areas are more or less salubrious. But the reckoning is perforce vague and, if taken at face value, would mean writing off every one of the most popular European coastal resorts between the Balearics and Corfu.

The good news is that there is more room for manoeuvre than the bare statistics might suggest.

Civilizations have been polluting the Mediterranean, after all, as long as man has lived there; ancient Rome must have generated, via the Tiber, a fair amount of sewage, and the canals and lagoons of Venice have been renowned for their putridity throughout the city's recorded history.

If the native peoples of the Mediterranean have survived and even flourished in all that muck it is not only because they have developed some immunity to the more toxic aspects of the environment, but because they have learned how to cope with the consequences of their mistakes. They follow, almost instinctively by now, common-

sense rules which are simple for the tourist to learn.

Because the absorptive capacity of seawater is almost infinite — the open ocean is hardly the natural habitat for bacteria that have adapted to a sheltered life in the inner sanctum of the human gut — pollution by sewage is almost by definition localized and short-lived. As the microbes disperse they succumb rapidly to the combined effects of salinity, sunlight, cold, dissolved minerals and even predators — natural marine micro-organisms that eat them. Some scientists think it may be only a matter of hours before the hostile marine environment

"inactivates" any number of invading germs. Unfortunately, the flow of sewage into the Mediterranean is so continuous that the cleansing power of the sea can never quite catch up.

Unep and the United Nations World Health Organization spent five years collecting and studying 17,500 water samples from 700 stations in 14 countries to reach their conclusion that three-quarters or more of the Mediterranean's beaches are relatively safe, microbially speaking.

Applied to the same data, the stricter EEC criteria would reduce the percentage of safe beaches by half, to 37. It all

depends on what you mean by "safe".

One danger about which the organizations are unanimous is that of contaminated shellfish. Oysters, clams, mussels and the like are worst offenders; being filter feeders, they extract nourishment from seawater by passing it through their bodies, concentrating bacteria, viruses and chemicals in their succulent flesh. Even those few shellfish that come to market in an unsullied state may be "freshened" on the stall with bucketfuls of almost certainly polluted seawater. Crustacea — shrimps, lobsters, crabs — have different feeding habits and digestions, so are safer.

Less than four per cent of the stations monitored by Unep and WHO were considered to be safe for shellfish. EEC standards, curiously, would increase the figure 10-fold, to 40 per cent, but the potential consequences of a mistake (typhoid and cholera, for example) are so dire that the percentage might as well be nil.

One man who should know takes a refreshingly insouciant view on the matter of holiday health: Dr Sjögran

swallowing seawater. "Unlikely. Polio, for example, does not survive in the sea; it spreads in swimming pools." Some "diseases", he argues, can be caused by pathogens naturally occurring in or on the body that spread to the wrong places when the body is immersed for too long or at too great a depth. "You can catch the same 'diseases' in distilled water."

Inevitably, the differing EEC and Unep/WHO standards will be brought into line one day. Meanwhile, the really good news concerns mercury levels in the Mediterranean, also the subject of a Unep study involving more than 2,700 samples, 700 molluscs, and 600 crustaceans. High mercury levels have always occurred naturally in the region and the scientists found no significant differences between current levels and those in some very elderly museum specimens.

They concluded that pregnant women, perhaps, should go easy on the tuna, but otherwise there is little danger from mercury, however frequent or extended the visits. There is even some talk now of abandoning present restrictions on maximum mercury levels in fish altogether, although direct discharge of mercury by industry would continue to be forbidden.

Unep, not always the most effective of the United Nations agencies, has been campaigning since its formation in 1972 for a cleaner Mediterranean. On paper at least it has achieved remarkable success: every Mediterranean country except Albania has been pressured, wheedled and cajoled into a formidable network of protocols, treaties and conventions committing them in principle to refrain from fouling the sea.

The stumbling block, as always, is money: cleaning up Alexandria's sewerage system alone would cost about £200m. But the bureaucrats can claim with some justification that through their good offices the Mediterranean is, if nothing else, degenerating a bit more slowly into the world's largest cesspit.

"You can catch the same 'diseases' in distilled water"

Keckes, who runs Unep's Regional Seas Unit, likes his seafood and he likes his daily swim. He has seen his home town of Rovinj in Yugoslavia develop into a popular tourist resort in one of the "dangerous" areas of the region; yet he still swims there, a few metres up-current of the local outflow.

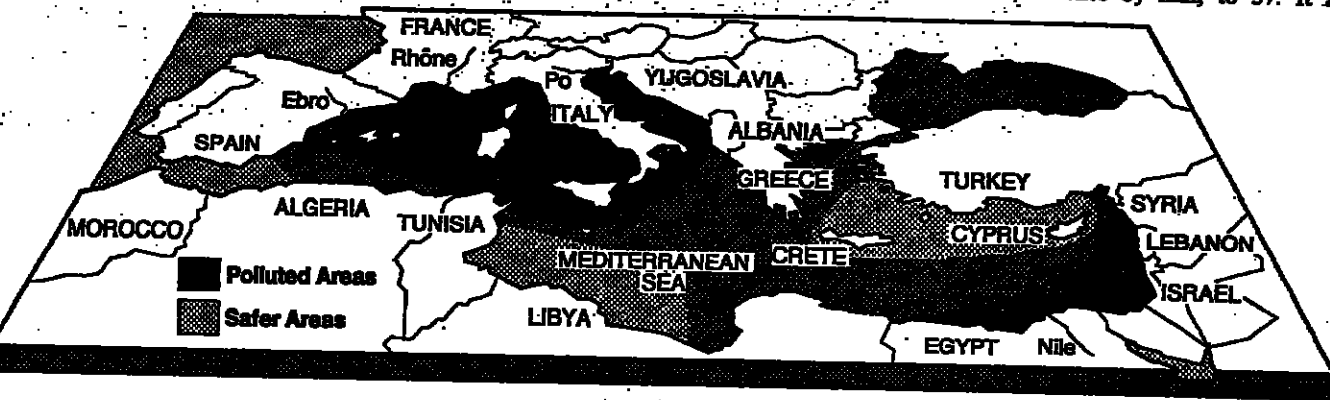
He is cynical about some of the horror stories, especially where swimming is involved. The swimmers may have eaten tainted shellfish, he says. Or they may have eaten perfectly clean shellfish — or anything else — to excess. ("I know of one man who ate 40 oysters and then blamed the Mediterranean when he got sick.")

As for diseases spread by

Safety rules

- Never, under any circumstances, eat raw shellfish. They are perfectly safe if well cooked. Crustaceans, either cooked or raw are probably safe but if you are prone to hypochondria give them a miss too.
- Avoid swimming near the centre of town, in any harbour, in front of your hotel, or anywhere the water looks unusually cloudy or the shore is very littered. If the beach in front of your hotel looks inviting, find out where the

- wastes are discharged before you take the plunge. In exceptional cases it may have a drainage pipe that goes well out to sea. If not, move up-current to the outlet. Cannes, Nice and Monaco are alone in the Mediterranean, are safe for virtually the entire length of their beaches.
- If you are uncertain where to swim, find out where the local
- If you are still worried, have pools, typhoid and perhaps cholera shots before the holiday.
- Always wash fruit and salad



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Ravello must be one of the most romantic small towns in Europe. Perched high above the rocky Amalfi coast, it has a rarefied feel, and its lovely old buildings, while they house no great treasures, communicate a sense of peace.

Its two main tourist attractions, the Villa Rufolo and Villa Cimbrone, both of which date from the thirteenth century or earlier, are curiously scholastic monuments. Rufolo is supposed to have inspired Wagner during his composition of *Parsifal*, while the beauty of Cimbrone is attributed largely to the restoration work of an eccentric English lord who bought the place in 1904 (it was then owned for some time by the equally eccentric surrealist art lover Edward James).

Their gardens have no formal magnificence, but ramble round creeper-covered stone walls and arches, with occasional fountains and flower beds, battered statues, and hidden corners. The Villa Cimbrone is still privately owned, but if you find someone at home, you can pay a small sum and wander around the garden, where from the steep hillside you can look down on the neighbouring villages, or from the terrace out to the sea.

From the Hotel Palumbo, an even older building, there are similar views across the bay, as magical in the early morning when the fishing-boats seem scarcely to move across the sea as at night when the lights of Salerno sparkle in the distance.

The Palumbo is one of those rare hotels that makes you feel instantly at home. The hall, with its hand-painted tiles on the floor, marble pillars and domed ceilings built by the Moors, is magnificent, but simple too, with whitewashed walls and some rather faded old prints as well as fine antique furniture. On the November evening that we arrived, there was one other guest staying — an American novelist with whom we had struck up a conversation in the dining-room when an elderly gentleman came in and introduced himself as the owner.

He was M. Pasquale Vuilleumier, a Swiss whose family bought the hotel nearly a century ago. His brother owns the Villa Cimbrone. The other outstanding villa in Ravello belongs to the American writer, Gore Vidal. The town's cosmopolitan character is reflected in the Palumbo's visitors' book. Wagner's signature is preserved somewhere, as are those of many more household names

including Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

M. Vuilleumier makes his own wine, Episcopio, which earns him very little money, he says, but wins all sorts of quality awards. The food is excellent, with particularly good seafood, risotto and crespelle, and sweet soufflés.

Ravello is evidently popular in summer, when the Palumbo is always full. But it would never have the crowds and bustle of Amalfi, down on the coast. There are only a few shops, bars and restaurants and few tourist traps, unless you count the pottery and cameo shop on the main square.

Local buses are cheap and reliable, and it is a short ride down to Amalfi and the neighbouring village of Atrani, both charming places with old streets and houses, small beaches, shops and some good fish restaurants. Further on is Positano and a few miles further on, Sorrento, which is bigger and more commercialized. Inland there is rugged but beautiful walking country.

TRAVEL NOTES

Magic Of Italy, 47 Shepherd's Bush Green, London W12 (743 9900) offers a variety of packages. Seven nights in the Hotel Palumbo this summer will cost between £219 and £263 per person, half-board, including flight to Naples. The Rufolo and Caruso hotels are slightly cheaper, and there are villa holidays.

Magic Of Italy also offers two-centre holidays, with two days in Rome and seven days in Ravello costing from £258.



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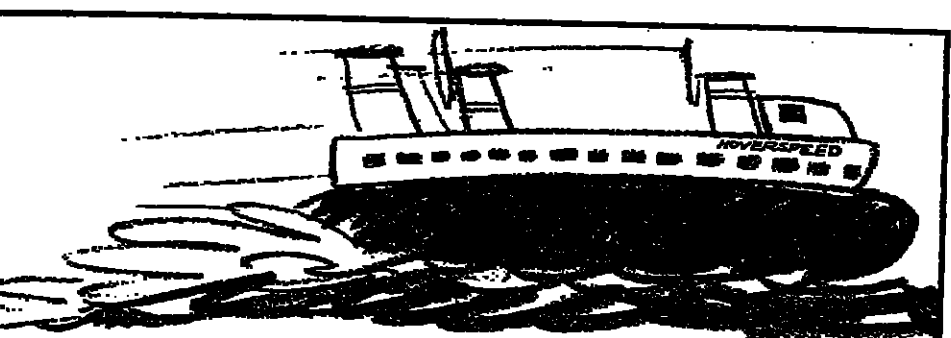
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IN THE GARDEN

Layering rhododendrons

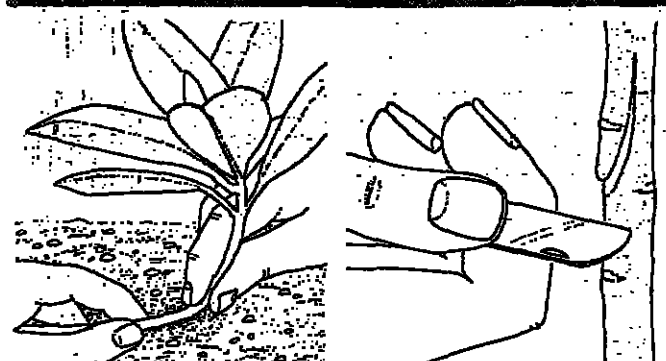
On the increase with economic cuts

Rhododendrons thrive on acidic soils, and there are only a few varieties which will tolerate conditions short of ideal. In a moist, acid soil well charged with organic matter they produce magnificent effects in the spring and summer.

At this time of year, they should not be neglected, for although they have finished flowering, they are preparing for next year. Make sure they are kept as moist as possible (bearing in mind any watering restrictions that may be in force). Rhododendrons are not deep rooted and they are among the first plants to suffer in a drought, showing the flagging symptoms typical of softer plants: the leaves droop and hang almost vertically. An overhead syringe at the same time as water at the roots will help. Once the plants have been watered, a mulch should be applied.

Flower heads should be picked over and removed to make way for new shoots and tidy up the plant. Each flower comes from a terminal bud, and when the flower dies new shoots begin to form at the base of the inflorescence. By carefully bending the inflorescence sideways away from the buds it will break off above the new shoots.

A weather eye must be kept open for pests and diseases, which should be attacked immediately. For the most part rhododendrons are not prone to serious problems, and when attacked usually throw off the effects quickly. The main problem occurs when they are planted in unsuitable soils, when the leaves begin to turn



Above: Pink Pearl; below: propagation by taking a shoot which easily touches the ground and cutting its stem below a node yellow, usually as a result of lime-induced chlorosis. A dose of Sequestrene is a good short-term solution, but in the long term soil alkalinity should be reduced by whatever means available.

Propagation of the true breeding species (but not the hardy hybrids) can be by seed, sown in the autumn, very thinly in pans of acid peat. Most seed is viable and there should be good germination.

But one of the best methods of propagation for the average gardener is layering, which, though slow, results in few failures. Select a supple shoot, which can be sent down to touch the ground without cracking. There should be at least nine inches from the point of contact with the ground to the shoot's tip. Prepare the ground by forking it over and adding acid peat to make the soil open and spongy, and two ounces of bonemeal per square yard. If the ground is heavy, add sand as well.

Prepare the shoot by making a cut through its stem at the point where it touches the ground. This cut should be made from just below the node (the joint from which the leaves arise) which is to be put into the prepared soil. Cut no more than half-way into the stem, then upwards past the node through the centre of the shoot. The cut should be the same length above the node as below it, leaving a 'tongue'.

Insert a sliver of wood, such as a matchstick, into the cut to keep it open when the shoot is pinned into the soil. Apply an ample covering of one of the hormone rooting powders recommended for hard-wooded subjects all over the cut end on the surrounding surfaces.

Place the shoot in the prepared soil, making sure the cut end is below the surface, and fix the shoot very firmly with pins.

The layer should be ready to be detached from the parent plant in about 18 months.

Ashley Stephenson

Seedy story

Spartium junceum, better known as Spanish Broom, is a small, upright, bushy plant. It is raised from seed, then grown in pots until they can be planted into permanent positions. Although some have been moved as bare-rooted plants, the chances of success are small. Seeds are easily raised by sowing direct into 3in pots, which should be placed outside but not exposed to baking sun. A further potting-on into a 5in pot will be needed when the seedlings are about 4in high. The shrub is most attractive in its ability to accept exposed sites

where the soil is generally not good. Once established, it accepts the worst weather can throw at it. Although plants do not live long they regenerate very quickly, producing masses of viable seed which scatters to the wind. Little or no attention is required once planted. It flowers on wood made during the current season so any pruning considered necessary should be done in early spring before growth commences. *Spartium junceum* flowers from early July to September. Yellow pea-like flowers cover the bush and provide colour at a time when other shrubs are not at their best. Leaves are few and linear.

Tree treat

Koeleria paniculata is a lovely flowering tree, with attractive foliage which provides beautiful autumn tints of almost clear yellow. Flowers are formed at the end of terminal shoots usually high up the tree which is just in flower now. The panicles of flowers may be 12in long. In the early years, the plant is straggly, but, as it matures, it forms into an open-topped tree which casts a medium shade. It is a hardy tree which likes to be situated in the sun. Plant away from shade of other trees and make sure the

ground is not waterlogged. It does not do well in ground which is heavy, or which lies wet during the winter. *Koeleria* is said not to be a long-lived tree, and although this may be so compared with oak or yew, it will last for at least 50 years. Make sure there is room for it before you plant. It requires little attention and, although unlikely in appearance, pruning should only be carried out as a last resort. The wood in the early years is soft, so areas where strong winds are common should be avoided. Trees are available from Nurseries and Hilliers and will cost about £15 each.



Trimming: An avenue of topiary at East Lambrook Manor in Somerset

Cottage plants in a manor house setting

Vita Sackville-West was enchanted by the tangle of cottage gardens, writing in 1938: "You have only to motor through the country districts to observe that every little cottage has its front garden overflowing with flowers".

Margery Fish, creator of the 2½-acre garden at East Lambrook Manor in Somerset, was also devoted to the cottage garden. Francis Boyd Carpenter eventually moved into the fifteenth-century manor house after her death intending to maintain the garden much as his sister-in-law had devised it. Planting was to be abundant, even riotous, and formality kept to a minimum.

The confusion that follows

from such planting is in keeping with the setting, giving the impression of planting grown delightfully out of control.

As in the best cottage gardens, the structure at first seems amorphous. But the little stone paths winding their way between shrubs and perennial plants do so within fairly well designated, if not absolutely geometric, areas.

The manor house occupies one corner of the longish plot. A small malt house, sporting climbing plants such as clematis, wisteria and fig, is situated centrally. At the back of the manor is the only really formal area - a lawn dominated by a huge variegated maple, a herb garden and a long herbaceous border.

By the back door is one of my favourite plants, *Euphorbia Wulfenii*, giving out its wonderfully nutty smell from flower heads long past their best.

From here the terrace garden rises gently, its walls packed with aubrietia and saxifrage, with wild strawberry and *Vincetoxicum* and *Welsh poppy* infiltrating even the smallest cracks in the stone paving.

There is a small avenue of topiary, a dozen or so of clipped *Chamaecyparis Lawsoniana* *Fletcheri*. It leads nowhere in particular, other than past densely planted beds of geraniums, *Astrantia major*, *Agapanthus*, and delicate fennel.

Behind the house is a dry stream bed where variegated

hostas flourish alongside flag irises, their flowers having run to stately seed heads. There are also dense clumps of *Solomon's seal* and the massive leaves of *Lysichiton americanum*, which flowers early in the year. Valerian, that most affectionate of weeds, romps about and roses scramble into old apple trees and drip their delicious fragrance on the breeze.

East Lambrook also houses a fine collection of hellebores, making this garden one which needs to be visited in the early spring as well as high summer.

Michael Young

East Lambrook Manor, South Petherton, Somerset (0460 40328). Open daily 9am-5pm. Adult 30p, child 20p.

OUT AND ABOUT

Fishing for sea trout

Joining a cast of flies-by-night

A half moon had risen, shining silver with a hint of mist at its edges. By the time we reached the river bend. Early in July, it was too soon for great waxy harvest moons although combine harvesters were at work by daylight in fields with brittle, dry crops.

Usually when one stands on a river bank, the water talks, murmuring and murmuring on its course, but the Taw in north Devon was low and silent, gleaming in the moonlight. By day there were pools so still one could have been watching a lake or reservoir which only came alive in wind.

High in the woods on the other side of the valley a fox coughed in the gathering night. A sheep called nervously on the opposite bank and then something crashed out of the water. In a moment, it had thudded back. We had heard our first sea trout of the night.

Actually, we had booked in at the hotel to fish for brown trout, smaller and wlier than their cousins on the chalk streams of the southern counties closer to home. But the river was in the middle of its sea trout season and was renowned, we were assured, for an abundance of fish.

When you get down to basics, there should be nothing special about sea trout. They are generally agreed to be brown trout which have ventured from estuaries into sea water and found it to be good. Each year they return to spawn high in the rivers, after developing to meet the demands of both sea and fresh water.

They are bigger than brown trout, having dined well on the plentiful food of the seas. Our hotel's record book - this is an establishment which takes these matters seriously - regularly showed good fish weighing well into double figures. The current British record stands at the 20lb



Fish out of water: Sea trout on the Shannon

mark and they are fish noted for their fighting ability. Indeed, we were told to use strong rods of 9-9½ft and leaders with 5lb tips rather than the smaller river rods and light lines which are usually used for chasing the little brown trout.

When sea trout start to move on the rivers, it seems to be a moot point whether they feed or, like salmon, live on the fat of their marine lives. Our baitiff was in little doubt that a big rising whirl in the river was just as likely to be a sea trout attacking a fly as a brown trout

and he brought back fish to prove his point.

During the day we had seen a number of powerful rises on sections of our allotted beat, rises which left the surface tilting and washing up the bank in the wake of potent fish. Soon after dinner, as the temperature dropped, we collected our rods and set off to cast upon darkening waters.

The fashion when the rivers are high is to fish in daylight, but night fishing is regarded as the true and most exciting sport, often employed when the rivers

are low. It clearly has fanatical support: the record book showed large fish caught at 2am and 3am with one regular angler known to fish only at night and sleep during the day.

The baitiff recommended a floating line and flies such as a Black Pennell which is a traditional wet fly. Hugh Falkus, an acknowledged sea trout expert, listed a range of flies including large lures, double hooks and a multitude of wet fly patterns in a recent volume of fly fishing patterns.

We tried a number of areas at first but without luck and then joined up on the bend where I thought sea trout might lie. The river had dug deep into the red soil of the bank and the water was deep, running from a smaller pool under trees.

The section had the added advantage of enabling us to cast without the risk of being snagged on the bank cast in the dark. Or, to be accurate, we could cast without being snagged too often. Experts will always advise a walk along a beat in daylight and for very good reason - the river was so low the banks were often steep and dangerous.

I cast from a small spit of sand with no response, although brown trout were moving further up the river. My companion cast down and across under the trees opposite, a shadow on a disappearing skyline as the sun vanished and the stars came out. He cast again and there was a sudden splash. The rod bent over to a weighty fish and I felt with a net and torch. A 1½lb "spotted" or "peal" eventually surrendered to the net, its silver markings starting to darken, a sign it had been in the river some time.

The fish had taken a wet Alexander fly out in the darkness under the trees. My companion muttered he was glad to have used a strong rod as the fish struggled energetically.

By midnight we were getting cold despite sweaters and fishing vests and there were no more fish. But as we walked away across a field damp with dew there was another huge thud on the water behind us.

Stewart Tandler

Sea trout can be fished on many game rivers in the British Isles. The season often runs from June or July to Aug. Some Scottish rivers fish on until Oct. Separate licences may be needed from local water authorities who can advise on the individual seasons.

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Making light work of nature



Panoramic profile: Bill Brandt's View from Glamis Castle

feeling of awe, such as the sheer scale of valleys and mountains.

Landscape photographs are frequently more striking in monochrome than in colour because of separation of tones - a fact readily understood by modern masters such as Ansel Adams and Bill Brandt.

Whether shooting in colour or black and white, certain

composition techniques will help build more pleasing pictures. Resist the urge to grab hold of a wide-angle lens to "get it all in". Panoramic wide-angle shots unless enlarged very substantially, disappear into a thin horizon and vast expanse of sky in print form.

Exceptions are, perhaps, fields of flowers or urban and industrial landscapes but be sure, if using a wide-angle lens, to choose a very low viewpoint so that the foreground dominates the composition.

Better results will be had by using longer lenses, and selecting a principal foreground anchor point to give the picture immediate scale and meaning. The shortening effect of a long lens will further concentrate the picture. A long lens will also accentuate haze, which gives an impression of distance.

If your principal point of interest is in the middle distance, you will need to frame this somehow, using a gap through trees or a gate for example.

Many a disappointing shot of water results from using too fast a shutter speed. Speeds upwards of a 125th of a second give water a "frozen" appearance which does not tie in with our recollection of its fluidity. Choose speeds of a 30th of a second or lower and fit a neutral density filter if necessary to cut down the intensity of light.

Depth of field is an important constituent in any photograph, but nowhere is it more important than in landscape photography. For one group of photographers, the f64 group, which comprised Edward Weston, Imogen Cunningham, Ansel Adams and others, it was the criterion.

The tiny f64 aperture on their large 10in x 5in plate cameras made sharp pictures possible from virtually zero feet to infinity. It can only be wise to follow the best exponents of the art and choose as small an aperture as possible.

Roy Cuckow

COUNTRY DIARY

Holiday time, the silly season, call it what you will, is not my favourite time of year. By August, especially in a dry year like this, the countryside has lost its lushness and is looking a little tired. The highlights of the summer - the Derby, Ascot, Wimbledon, the Lord's Test and the Open - have come and gone once again, and all we have to look forward to are the interminable dreary weeks of football.

England may not have a Test side worthy of the name, but at the lower levels the game seems to be flourishing as never before. I cannot remember a time when more people seemed to be playing cricket. When I drove one recent Saturday afternoon through a string of picture book villages in Surrey, on every single village green a game was in progress.

It is surprisingly popular in Fleet Street. Like Gilbert's burglar who it will be recalled, when not a-burgling, loved to hear the little brook a-gurgling and listen to the merry village chime, so we hawks on The Times like nothing better than

to shed our bylines and head for some remote rural arena. In deepest Gloucestershire this year we came across a former pop star who had decided that the only things he really enjoyed were cricket and golf, which must be all for the good.

Another highly enjoyable activity, to which I was recently introduced for the first time, is clay pigeon shooting. We were the guests of Holland and Holland, the gunmakers, who have their own shooting school in the heart of Sir John Betjeman's Metroland. I have no idea what the old boy thought of guns and shooting, but I am certain he would have delighted in the meadows and woods which, spared from any form of chemical treatment, were ablaze with wildflowers and alive with butterflies.

Thanks to some excellent instruction, most of us were soon hitting our flying targets with both barrels. Half-a-dozen one hour lessons would, we were

told, turn most people into respectable enough shots not to disgrace themselves if invited for a day on a grouse moor. The climax came when whole convoys of the discs were released from the top of a tower to sweep over our heads, while we stood underneath, four at a time, blazing away happily. We almost felt that we had done something to deserve the champagne that followed.

The real purpose of the outing was to witness the unveiling of four exquisite hand-made guns, commemorating Lord Mountbatten and his family, which no doubt have been snapped up already by an American collector for a seven figure sum.

It is far too late for me to take up hunting, even if I wanted to, but I cannot think of anything nicer than to have the time and money to spend large parts of the year fishing and shooting. However, someone - it may have been wise old John Chatterton, of the Financial Times - told me that you should not allow yourself to become addicted to more than one field sport.

There is nothing wrong with The Observer campaign to "save our countryside", but I feel it is wrong to classify some farmers as villains, though I agree that chopping down protected trees, or deliberately destroying proposed sites of special scientific interest (cannot someone devise a better term?) before they are confirmed, is unforgivable.

Not surprisingly, farming and landowning organizations are appealing to their members to publicize their positive efforts in the cause of conservation. Within the last two years the National Farmers' Union has certainly come to recognize the power of the environmental lobby. The Country Landowners' Association and the Council for the Protection of Rural England have signed a joint declaration, pledging themselves to obtaining more support from the BBC for environmental objectives.

John Young

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REVIEW

Sweet muted strings and a famous fugue

The symphonies Haydn wrote in the late 1760s and early 1770s (usually called *Sturm und Drang* symphonies by analogy with the German literary movement which actually erupted rather later) are usually passed for their dramatic power. L'Espresso Armonico, directed by Derek Solomon, have already produced one lively box of these symphonies for CBS, and they now follow that up with a second collection including some of Haydn's greatest pieces. It is announced somewhat baldly as "Vol 8", presumably a shorthand for saying that the ensemble is now committed to recording the whole Haydn symphonic output of which this will eventually be the eighth chronological instalment. (It would have been appropriate to explain this in the booklet).

There is surely no more tant, cogent and affecting symphony in the whole of the eighteenth century than Haydn's E Minor, the "Trauer", composed around 1770, with its tense unisons and fierce tutti outbursts in the outer movements (the finale is a construction around one theme which attains a quite frightening intensity in the development), its eerie quasi-academic minut in canon form and its sublimely decorated slow movement (which Haydn wanted to be played as a funeral). How does it emerge here? Certainly with vivid incisiveness in the fast movements, which are very fast, with a bite and devil-may-care scratchy quality which gives them an alarming sense of drive and passion.



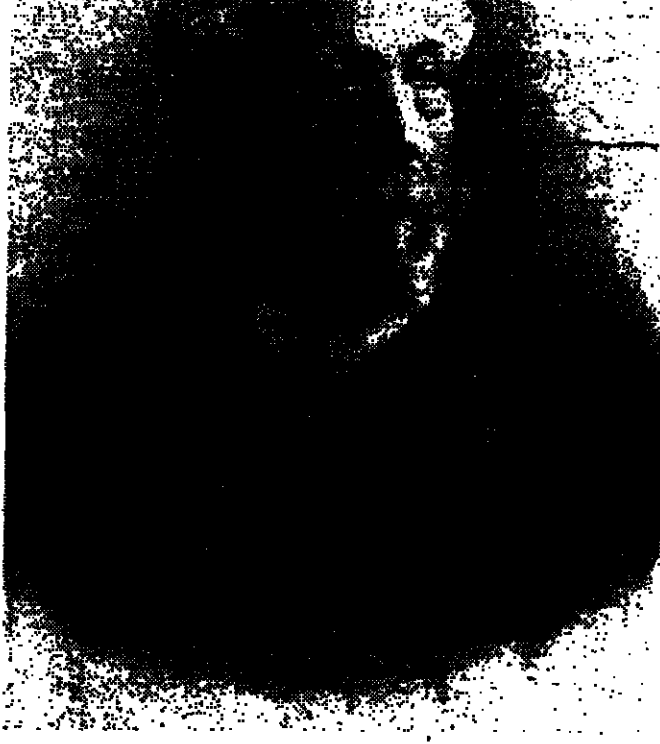
Haydn: Unsurpassed dramatic power

But in the slow movement, the sweet quality of the muted strings in the opening bars gives

series of Bach organ recitals for Archiv. Now he has produced two more records of marvellously large-scale pieces, and the benefits of his idiosyncratic style are more clearly felt.

The most successful accounts are of the famous D minor Toccata and Fugue on the first record (you will not recognize the opening flourishes, broken up, jumpy, and brilliantly effective) and of the C minor Passacaglia on the second record (where Koopman boldly keeps a single registration almost throughout the tumultuously varied set of variations and final fugue). These are thrilling, elsewhere there are some awkwardnesses and the power of the music fails to come through - particularly in the crashing F major Toccata (which is marred by a rather distant, foggy recording) and in the *moto perpetuo* of the "Dorian" Toccata (which is rushed). But these are stimulating, thought-provoking readings: I have found myself returning to them far more often than to smoother, more fluent accounts.

Nicholas Kenyon



Operatic originator: Edmond Lalo who directed 19th century Paris convention (see below)

Fight the wars with braying brass

Chances to hear nineteenth-century French opera sung by a French-speaking cast are rare enough. So for that reason alone a welcome goes this month to Lalo's *Le Roi d'Ys* (complete) and Delibes' *Lakmé* (highlights). The snag is that both recordings, made by Pathe Marconi, date back several years.

The Lalo comes, spruced up a little but still in mono only, from 1957, when France, with some help from neighbouring Belgium, had studio singers rather than the original cast. Lalo's first heard in 1888, was a crucial one in which Lalo threw off the shackles of Paris Opera convention, which demanded among other things a central ballet, and composed in something quite close to a Wagnerian tradition. It is his misfortune to have written an *aubade* to tempt every lyric tenor, "*Venez, venez, ma bien aimée*", which is quite unrepresentative of the score as a whole but remains by far the best known number in the work. Nevertheless, it is a pleasure to hear Henri Legay sing it with pure head tones, as

it should be sung, surrounded by a chorus of maidens (rather weak).

The real *Le Roi d'Ys* is a noisy opera, with braying brass and declamatory vocal lines, about the mythical kingdom constantly threatened by warring factions and tidal waves off the coast of Brittany. Rita Gorr, once a famous Amneris at Covent Garden and Janine Micheau are the sisters in love with the same warlord.

Micheau's voice sounds by contrast a little pinched, but she makes much of her Act II aria in which Ravana accuses her sister of pressing her passion a little too hard. André Cluytens, who conducted what is probably still the best *Faust* in the

catalogue (with De los Angeles, Gedda), gives Lalo sympathetic treatment, although the orchestra in this 25-year-old recording is not exactly prominent.

A decade later came Lombard and Lakmé, from which EMI allow only the highlights. Delibes' opera has been neglected, although like *Le Roi d'Ys* it could have been collected by visitors to the Wexford Festival. Mady Mesplé, whose light and silvery coloratura has been praised on this page before now, is ideally cast in the title role of the Brahmin who goes to her death after eating the leaf of the fatal datura but not before giving us the famous Bell Song, intoned here with an accuracy any church steeple would admire. Charles Bursles, a tenor very much in the mould of Legay (and Villabella before him) is Gerald, the English army officer who intrudes on the Hindu faith. British Airways have appropriated the music of the Act I duet (sop./mezzo) so perhaps Delibes was a high flyer after all.

RCA celebrate the centenary

Sir William Glock pointed out that Arthur Schnabel was one of the first musicians of his time to take Mozart seriously. Claudio Arrau has written admirably of the total lack of preconception in his playing both pianist, significantly, came to Mozart only late in life. The HMV Treasury now adds to its Schnabel collection of Beethoven and Schubert with concert recordings from the 1930s and 1940s, invaluable to the collector and revelatory to those of us who now hear Mozart with differently tuned ears.

First the drawbacks. The acoustic is boxy, limited, if almost noiseless; the integrity of Schnabel's musical literalism at times leads him to the peremptory or perverse, as for instance, in the Finale of K466 and the Larghetto of K595 respectively. Bartoli's orchestral *tutti* in K595 remind us that in 1934 legato beauty meant connecting intervals with honeydew. And you may or may not relish the glimpse of Schnabel as composer in the extraordinary atonal cadenzas of K491.

The rewards for tolerating all this are considerable. The slow movements, in particular, have

Mozart: Piano Concertos K466, 461, 595, 365 Arthur Schnabel. HMV EX 29 00723 (2 discs). Mozart: Piano Sonatas K331, 332/Fantasia KV 397 Mitsuko Uchida. Philips 412 123-1, cassette 412 123-4, CD 412 123-2. Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No 3 Sgouros/Berlin Philharmonic/Simonov. EMI 27 0020 1. Schumann: Symphonic Etudes/André Mizuriz Pollini. DG 410 918-1. Liszt: Late chamber music László/Berlin/Björns. Philips 411 117-1, cassette 411 117-4.

a rare, unforced transparency; the business, through lack of ornamentation, in K466's *Romance* stimulates Schnabel to recreate a strange, chaste beauty, while in K491 the two periods of its four-bar entry are unusually graciously, gently shaped.

That same instinctive musicianship (his teacher once said he was too much of a musician to be a pianist) brings the breath of figure into the opening of the K466 and, by the meticulous weighting and timbre of the accompanying quavers, sustains an exceptionally slow tempo at the centre of K595.

Where much was denied, textually, to Schnabel, either as a consequence of his own reverence for the text, or because of the contemporary state of research, Mitsuko Uchida makes intelligent and imaginative use of suggestion and invention. In the Adagio of the K322 Sonata, for instance, she filters her own embellishments in with decoration from both autograph and published editions, and in the D minor Fantasia changes the arbitrary closing bars of the Breitkopf edition.

The result, however, is not totally dissimilar to Schnabel. Ms Uchida has the same intuitive sense for the contour of a melody, for its points of rest, for the pointing of a harmonic turn: her variations in the K331 are rapt, intimately eloquent with the subtlest emphases and silences.

Nothing could be in greater contrast than Dimitris Sgouros's recording of Rachmaninov's Third Piano Concerto, the work with which this piano professor, aged 15, made his debut here and in the United States.

Everything, whether on the surface or silently, is scorching: he has both the resources and, best of all, the daring, to build

and sustain extraordinary climaxes, while remaining loose-limbed, almost blithe, in the opening. The close recording of the Berlin Philharmonic under Yuri Simonov reinforces the exuberant physicality of this performance, which, even when running headlong, is never merely headstrong.

Sgouros's previous recital record was of Schumann's *Etudes Symphoniques*, with the posthumous Variations; Maurizio Pollini is the latest to record them, choosing the 1837 version, and grouping the five Variations together after the fifth Etude. Pollini, turning nonchalance into purring pianism at this point, persuades us that there is no better way. And who better than he to draw out the logic and imaginative freedom, the clear thinking as well as the acoustic beauty of the work?

Liszt's last years were happier artistically than Schumann's, and a group of Dutch musicians make a valuable addition to the catalogue of this period with chamber versions of works more commonly heard on the piano. The more vibrant voice of the cello, for instance, in the second piano version of "La lugubre gondole" adds an inevitable expressive gloss to what is, when heard on the keyboard alone, an unrelenting, austere work.

But in "La notte", a meditation, at second remove, on "Il Penseroso", the violins tremolando becomes a ghostly spirit, conjuring up irresistibly the spectre of the Hungarian rhapsody and of travels and times past.

Hilary Finch



Mozart: Time to be taken seriously

COLLECTING

Workhorses at play

"This Regency work table," said the owner, "was one of my own little purchases. Cost me £200 but worth every penny, don't you think?"

"Cheap at the price," said the valuer. "But it isn't Regency. Early Victorian, about 1845."

"Then I shall take it back and demand a refund. If they refuse, I'll have them prosecuted for misrepresentation. Trade Description Act, the Weights and Measures people - all that."

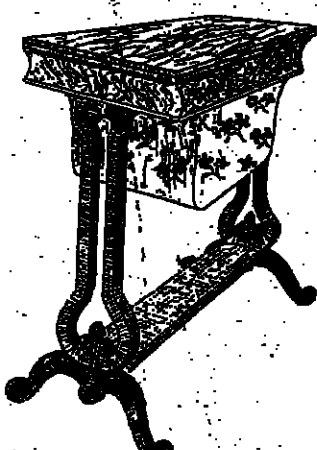
"I wouldn't, if I were you. There was one of very similar design in Christie's last January, complete with padded foot-board like this, that sold for about £480. True, it was stamped with the name of a good maker - Holland and Sons - making it that much more interesting to a collector."

On the other hand, it was oak, whereas yours is in figured walnut and commercially very desirable as a piece of frivolous, feminine furniture."

"Do you have to be so patronising? Just because it was intended for female use. When where these things first made, anyway?"

"Probably about 1770. They went on being produced in a variety of designs until after 1900, when the Edwardians revived some earlier styles."

"But surely the design was always basically the same, more or less like this one, with a foldover top, batz-lined to provide a working surface, and a drawer divided into little com-



Walnut wizardry: An early Victorian work table

partments to hold the silks and reels of cotton and, below that, a sort of sliding bin for storing work in progress? Any differences were only in the details, weren't they?"

There's a bit more to it than that. Not all work tables had foldover tops and, of those that had, many were inlaid inside as boards for chess and backgammon, in place of the batz which was meant as much for card-playing as for hard graft. Indeed, the type is often called a work-and-games table, suggesting a frivolous attitude of mind."

"If you were ever to play cards, chess, backgammon or

even tiddly-winks with my husband, you wouldn't think of them as frivolous pastimes. Games are the only subject he takes with deadly seriousness."

"Which is why men's gaming tables were rather more substantial. Ladies in the late eighteenth century were seen as light-hearted in their approach to both work and play."

"Sheraton designed what he called 'a table with a bag, used by the ladies to work at, in which bag they deposit their fancy needlework'. The bag was known as a pouch, and the table as a pouch-table. It was meant for those who liked to play at working, rather than for the really industrious."

"Well, perhaps. But I often use mine when I have to sew on a button or darn a sock."

"Arduous in the extreme, but yours is sufficiently robust to withstand the strain. Some of those made of satinwood in the 1780s have four tapered legs of the most fragile kind. After about 1800, the Regency period produced two principal types - one having a turned centre-column with four splayed feet, and the other with end-supports, a little like this but less chunky and often shaped as lyres, complete with brass rods as strings. All very neoclassical."

"Orpheus and his lute."

"That was the general idea. Greek, Roman and Egyptian styles were all the rage. Then, in the mid-to-late Victorian era, the whole thing became fussier - buns, turned legs serving as end-supports, or a trio of cabriole feet projecting from a centre-column."

"Walnut veneers decorated with marquetry, not only for the top but sometimes, in place of the silk, for the pouch too."

"And how expensive are these various bits of frivolity likely to be?"

"A satinwood example, 1780-1800, is likely to set you back £1,000 - considerably more if painted in the Angelica Kauffman style. Even a pretty Edwardian copy sells for about £300. A Regency rosewood one with lyre ends, with brass inlaid decoration and reversible chess-board top as optional extras is upwards of £1,500."

One of about the same period, but in mahogany and on a centre-column with splayed feet, would be in the £500-£800 bracket. A late-Victorian piece in walnut, with shaped top, showy end-supports and a bit of marquetry would cost about £400-£600, and a slightly later one with the trumpet or 'icecream cone' base, £300-£450. But obviously, much depends on quality, condition and luck."

Peter Philip

GALLERIES



IMAGE OF THE WEEK: Tommy Steele and the Dallas Boys (see Pop People, right)

Openings

THE MISSES VICKERS: Centenary exhibition on a picture the subjects of which were somewhat unkindly dubbed "three uppy young women from Sheffield". John Singer Sargent painted them. With the help of documentation and descendants of the sitters, the record is set straight, and the painting put into its artistic and historic context.

Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield (0742 28281). Opens today until Sept 30, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 2pm-5pm.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: An exhibition where the title preceded the work: each year a group of women artists called the Circuit Painters chose a theme for their summer show and then set to. Includes work by Adina Bartram, Antoinette Wijnberg and Joan Russell.

Christopher Hull Gallery, 670 Fulham Road, London SW6 (738 4120). From Thurs until Aug 31, Tues-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-4pm. Closed Sun.

ARTISTS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW: Another summer show, this time of work by both established and younger artists. Those represented include Elizabeth Frink, Ruskin Spear and Julian Trevelyan.

New Grafton Gallery, 49 Church Road, Barnes, London SW13 (748 8850). From Wed until Sep 1, Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm. Closed Sun and Mon.

THOMAS HODGE, THE GOLFING ARTIST: Preview for golf fanatics: exhibition at Sotheby's of an important rare collection - 80 strong - of golfing pictures by

Thomas Hodge, discovered last year, and due to be auctioned.

Sotheby's Upper Gallery, Bloomsbury Place, London W1 (493 8080) from Mon until Aug 3, Mon-Fri 9am - 4.30pm.

PAINTINGS BY WOLE OYEYEMI: Images of contemporary African life by the 30-year-old Nigerian artist, transported direct from Lagos. Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 (863 4535). Opens Thurs until Aug 27, Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm; Sun 2-5pm.

Selected

WILLIAM ROBERTS 1895-1980, AN ARTIST AND HIS FAMILY: The National Portrait Gallery, London WC2 (639 1529). Until Oct 7, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-6pm.

Forty from the dozens of paintings by William Roberts of himself and his family over a period of 60 years. A fascinating chronicle of a marriage providing insight into an artist who, after his involvement with the Vorticism Movement in 1914, and active service in the First World War, largely dissociated himself from the world.

TREASURY OF SAN MARCO, VENICE: British Museum, London WC1 (636 1555). Until Sept 2, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5.30pm.

International travelling show, an route between Paris and Germany, of chalcas, icons, altar furnishings and reliquaries from the storeroom of St Mark's. Some came to Venice as plunder from the Crusades, others as diplomatic gifts to the Doges. Craftsmen represented were from Byzantium, the Islamic countries and the medieval West.

The pseudonymous iconographer

A. R. Penck doesn't actually exist, although if you go to the Tate Gallery on Wednesday you will find an exhibition of works attributed to that name. The person responsible for the massive, totem-like images that comprise the first in a new series of exhibitions of contemporary art is Ralf Winkler, currently at Hackney, east London.

An East German, born in 1939 in Dresden, over the years Ralf Winkler has undergone a number of identity changes.

"Penck", a name now kept for business purposes only, was originally adopted to deceive East German authorities. When his work was banned, Winkler was secretly signed up by Michael Werner, the powerful

West German dealer. This year he represented West Germany at the Venice Biennale.

Having lived for a while in West Germany and Dublin, Winkler came to London last year. Long-haired and bearded like a troll, he lives in a house strewn with possessions, somewhat in the manner of his works, leaving no space unfilled. Last week the living room looked like a battlefield of papers and books, with the added interest of cannonballs for paperweights, a miniature policeman's helmet on the floor and liberal squiggles on the door.

"In the East, my head was full of political theories", Winkler says. "Now I'm less political: looking for compro-

mise". One thing seems certain for him however, and that is that money has replaced politics. The only sign that interests dealers is the sign of the dollar.

In his current work, such as a series of seven paintings inspired by the miners' strike, he is continuing to use his distinctive iconography (man/woman; power/oppression; pursuit). Each image owes its existence to a combination of what he calls "optical logic" (intuitive visual decisions) as well as a form of reportage. And he cannot explain on the one hand the lettering that appears here and there, retorting, "You English are too verbal", whereas he is happy to explain the presence of enormous female forms: "The rise of women is a particularly English problem."

One of the paintings in the show is "Dinner at Brown's Hotel", based on a gathering of friends and dealers last year, to mark the opening of the Basellitz exhibition at the Whitechapel. Here Winkler has abandoned his stickmen for more rounded forms, with himself as an abstract hiatus: and so the quest for the true Winkler goes on.

Sarah Jane Checkland

"A. R. Penck: Brown's Hotel and other paintings" opens on Wed at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (021 1815). Until New 4, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm.



Totemic image: A. R. Penck's "Dokumente-Dokument des..."

THE WEEK

Photography

HEATHER ANGEL: Kodak Gallery, 109 High Holborn, London WC1 (405 7841). Until Aug 23, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Heather Angel, who has long been known for her wonderful photographs of the natural world here indulges her passion for British gardens in connection with her latest book, *A Camera in the Garden*. Beautiful colour photographs of some of the finest gardens in the British Isles capture the mood of hot lazy days, bees and fragrant borders.

POP PEOPLE: Hamiltons Gallery, 13 Carfax Place, London W1 (489 9483). Until Aug 4, Mon-Fri 9.30am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm.

This gallery continues its selection of racy shows but at last comes up with something which goes beyond its usual superficiality. Harry Hammond has been photographing pop personalities since the late 1940s and here presents a selection from them, up to the early 1960s; a show tinged with all the nostalgia of the evanescent world of pop heroes yet of invaluable worth to cultural historians.

LIFE IN BRITAIN: Midland Group Arts Centre, Carlton Street, Hockley, Nottingham (0602 582536). Until Aug 4, Tues-Fri 11am-7.30pm, Sat 10am-5.30pm.

A miscellany of material -

newspaper cuttings. Picture Post features - culled from the early years of the Mass Observation movement which was founded in 1937 by Tom Harrison to investigate and record life in Britain. Humphrey Spenders' photographs of the Workmen Project, 1937-38 are also shown.

FELIX MAN AND ERIC SALOMON: National Museum of Photography, Princess View, Bradford, West Yorkshire (0274 727488). Until Aug 19, Tues-Sat noon-8pm, Sun 2.30-5pm.

Man began to take photographs with a box camera in Germany before the First World War. He was a prolific contributor to *Munchner Illustrierte* in the late 1920s and 1930s and went on to join *Weekly Illustrated* and *Picture Post* in this country. Salomon is considered the father of the candid photograph and, like Man, worked extensively in Germany before his death in Auschwitz in 1944.

BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHY: 1839-1900: Victoria and Albert Museum, London (839 71). Until Aug 19, Mon-Thurs 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2.30-5.30pm.

The best British photography of the period. All prints are original and the majority are from the V&A's own collection. Catalogue available, price £9.95.

Michael Young

TELEVISION

Of Duke, Louis, Fats, Billie and all that jazz

As Fats Waller used to holler to accompany his piano playing, "The Joint is jumping, it's really jumping". The BBC has suddenly gone jazz, crazy and is unleashing 12 hours of it on to our television screens this weekend.

Will the population forgo the call of the great outdoors to contemplate this canned music? For jazz to appeal it should surely be live entertainment, preferably in a smoke-filled room, with spirit in both senses of the word, and the opportunity for applause and means of appreciation to mingle with the texture of the music.

But alas, many of the true jazz giants are dead, and the only way to catch a morsel of their original flavour is to watch archive material on the rare occasions it appears on television. It seems that such footage will provide quite a feast in jazz on a Summer's Day on BBC2 today and tomorrow.

Two documentaries written and presented by Russell Davies will be shown: a repeat of *Duke Ellington and his Famous Orchestra*, and a new documentary about Louis Armstrong, *Laughin' Louis*. This charts Armstrong's life, from childhood on the poverty line in the red-light district of Storyville, New Orleans, when ragtime music and street parades were his only solace, to universal fame in later life, when he sang "What a Wonderful World" in his gravelly voice.

Six more films from a period of 40 years with show straight performances by other jazz masters. The first, *Jazzin' the Blues*, was made in 1944 and is being transmitted tomorrow as a result of a passionate campaign by Russell Davies, who first saw it in America. It is a rare 10-minute film of the tenor saxophonist Lester Young, accompanied by Barney Kessel on guitar with vocals by Mary Bryant.

The Sound of Jazz, filmed in 1957, which includes performances by Billie Holiday, Jimmy Rushing, Thelma Houston and Coleman Hawkins, also receives its first showing on British television, followed by *Jazz on a Summer's Day*, the movie, a recording of the '58 Newport Jazz Festival featuring Jack Teagarden, George Shearing and Dinah Washington. There are also films of Miles Davis performing in 1959, Tubby Hayes in 1965 and Ella Fitzgerald in 1974.

Some spirited performances appear as a reward for sitting patiently through the tedious, dated feature film of 1962, *It's a Wonderful World*, starring Helen Shapiro and Craig Douglas as two young jazz fans who enlist

Programme choice

some musicians to help them save their local coffee-bar. Famous Five style. They are lucky enough to recruit Acker Bilk, Kenny Ball and the Temperance Seven. What remains unexplained is why the BBC has used such a roundabout way of providing their music while these jazzmen are still alive, still performing the same numbers as they were in 1962, and would presumably have been delighted to swing for today's cameras.

Of the 14 programmes, only one features contemporary jazz, in a concert recorded recently at the 100 Club in London with the Stan Tracey Quartet, and the Pizza Express All-Stars with Brian Lemon (piano) Ian Sless (bass) and Dave Shephard (clarinet).

Sarah Jane Checkland

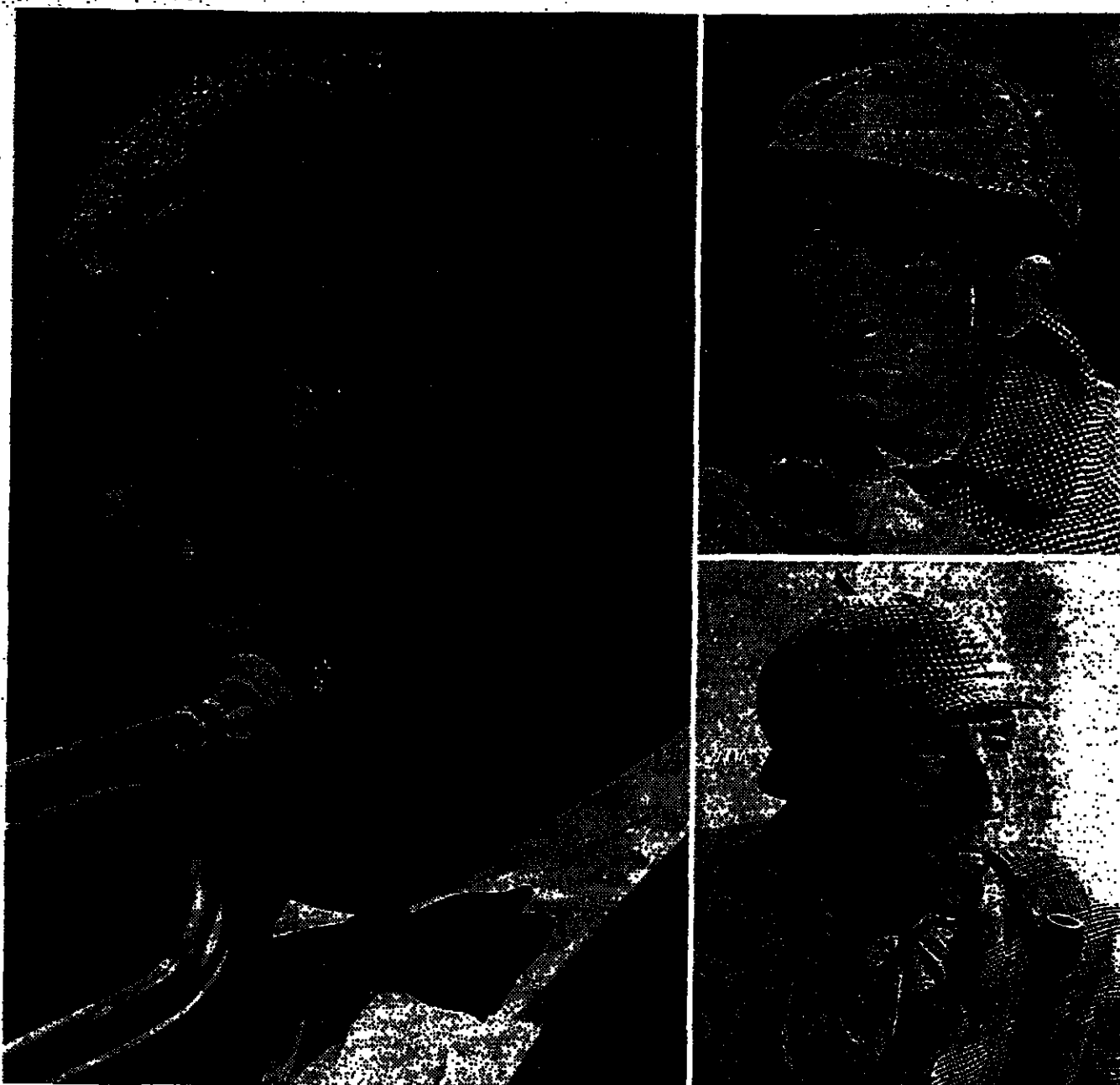
Today: 3.10-4.30pm, Introduction by Humphrey Lyttelton and Russell Davies, followed by It's Tired Dad; 6.25-7.15pm, Avenir Jazz Joke-Box 11, George Melly with Slim Gaillard; 7.30-8.05pm, Jazz 625 with Tubby Hayes; 8.05-8.20pm, Duke Ellington and his Famous Orchestra; 9.20-10.10pm, Jazz at the 100 Club; 11.10pm-12.30am, Jazz on a Summer's Day, the movie; 12.30-1.30am, Ella Fitzgerald at Ronnie Scott's. Tomorrow: 7.45-8.10pm, The Sound of Miles Davis; 8.10-8.25pm, Jammin' the Blues; 8.25-9.40pm, Laughin' Louis; 9.40-10.30pm, The Sound of Jazz; 10.30pm-12.25am, The Benny Goodman Story; 12.25-12.55am, Jazz at the 100 Club (2). All programmes on BBC2.

Selected

BORN TO RUN Limering up for the Olympics, a Channel 4 documentary on the great British athlete who mysteriously ran out of steam: Sebastian Coe. In 1981 Coe was considered invincible, solving world records by the dozen, then suddenly came a series of setbacks through injury and illness culminating in Coe's withdrawal from last year's world championships. Ch 4 today, 8-9pm.

PLAYING SHAKESPEARE There may be millions of words written about Shakespeare every year, but as John Barton, director of many Royal Shakespeare Company productions says "Very little is put on paper about how to get to act him". A nine-part series of televised workshops in which well-known actors discuss the Bard and his intentions. Ch 4, tomorrow, 7.15-8.15pm.

"V" No, the 31 giant UFOs hovering over the world's major cities are not part of another advertisement for British Airways. They are the sinister prelude to an invasion of the earth, in an American sci-fi blockbuster scheduled to darken your screens



Television feast: Louis Armstrong is Laughin'; Peter Cushing (top) and Basil Rathbone as lookalike Holmeses

every evening this week. Starring Marc Singer, Faye Grant, Jane Badler and Richard Herd. All ITV regions, Mon, 9-10pm, 10.20-11.20pm, and every night until Fri (various times).

MIDDLETOWN Another American blockbuster, this time in six parts. A detailed look at a particular community in the US, covering a major aspect of life in each episode, starting with The

Campaign, when two men battle for the job of Mayor. Ch 4, Mon, 9-10.30pm, and every night until Fri (various times).

THE CRY A welcome Play for Today with political edge. Adrian Dunbar plays a young London newspaper reporter who returns to Ulster for a holiday with his parents and finds himself getting emotionally and professionally involved in the nasty incident he

witnesses on his first night home. With Michael Duffy and Doreen Keogh. BBC1, Tues, 9.25-10.20pm.

HARTY GOES TO HOLLYWOOD You either love or hate him, but he will be providing relief from all that pulling, pushing and straining under the Los Angeles heat haze. Russell Harty is in Hollywood to find out how the other half lives. BBC2, Wed, 8-8.30pm.

LOOKS FAMILIAR Denis Norden is back with the thirteenth series, looking at the 1930s and 1940s, chatting with Ernie Wise, Kenneth Williams and Michael Parkinson. Ch 4, Thurs, 8-8.45pm.

THE MAKING OF A CONTINENT Red Indians talk of magic in them there hills, one day the story mass will rise up and drive the white man away from their lands; and that appears to be exactly what is

happening. This documentary investigates why the Great Basin between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevada in California is being torn apart. BBC1, Fri, 8.45-7.40pm.

EARTH YEAR 2050 A time approaches when it will be possible to choose a baby's characteristics before he birth, when animal farms will be set up in which limbs and organs are cultivated, and when patients rather than doctors can make decisions on when to die. In four programmes, John Ashworth, Vice-Chancellor of Bedford University, considers what the world will be like in the year 2050 with the help of a panel which includes Shirley Williams and Richard Gergey, Professor of Neurophysiology at Bristol University. Ch 4, Fri, 8-9pm.

WOMEN OF OUR CENTURY Dame Janet Vaughan, the eminent scientist, academic now aged 85, is taken through her now tottering past by the dogged Polly Toynbee. And she's already been through a lot from making studies of a Belsen concentration camp, to researching the effects of radiation on humans. BBC1, Fri, 8.25-10.05pm.

A Watson whose brain is not so elementary

Films on TV

each attended by Nigel Bruce as his Watson.

Only one partnership has come near to challenging the Rathbone-Bruce dominance. In 1959 Peter Cushing and Andre Morell came together for *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, the most often filmed of the Holmes stories (tonight, Channel 4, 11.30pm-1.10am).

Nigel Bruce had played Watson as a rather dim, bumbling buffoon. Morell gave him more depth and intelligence, more a partner than a comic foil. Cushing's Holmes was less stylized than Rathbone's, the detective's eccentricities less exaggerated. Unfortunately, the two were never to combine again. Their claim to be accepted as the best ever Holmes and Watson remains tantalizingly unanswered.

This version of *The Hound*, the first in colour, was made by Hammer Films, who initially saw it as only a slight departure from their normal run of blood-and-gothic horror. With its hints of the supernatural, blood-curdling visions and sounds, *The Hound* seemed archaic. Hammer fiddled. Both Cushing and the director, Terence Fisher, were regular Hammer fixtures, as was Christopher Lee, who played Sir Henry Baskerville (and was, coincidentally, later to play Holmes in a German production).

Fortunately, the excesses of the horror genre were avoided. The Hammer hallmarks are not entirely absent, but *The Hound of the Baskervilles* remains a relatively faithful, imaginative, entertaining film with first-class acting and good atmospheric direction. Conan Doyle might have approved.

Marcel Berlins

Also recommended: *Go West (1925)*: Buster Keaton's uneven, always inventive, occasionally hilarious comedy in which he plays the city slicker who moves to the country and falls for a Jersey cow. (Channel 4, today 2.30-3.50pm).

Jazz on a Summer Day (1958): Glorious evocation of one of the most magical of all jazz festivals, at Newport Rhode Island in 1958. Anita O'Day's "Tea for Two" and Mahalia Jackson's moving edition of the Lord's Prayer are memorable. (BBC2, tonight 11.10pm-12.30am).

The Benny Goodman Story (1955): Amiable, not especially accurate, bio-pic of the jazz clarinetist and band-leader comes to life when the music starts. Steve Allen plays the lead, but fortunately Goodman himself plays the clarinet. (BBC2, tomorrow 10.30pm-12.30am).

THE WEEK

CONCERTS

Celebration of a classic revival

Besides being National Heritage Year, 1984 marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of Buxton's great neo-classical Crescent. The main theme of the Buxton Festival, which opens today, is the rediscovery of ancient Greek architecture and design in the latter half of the eighteenth century, which had such an effect on European culture.

There will be plenty of apt music, most notably the country's first professional staging of the original French version of Cherubini's *Medea*, with Rose-Jind Plowright as the tempestuous main character and Anthony Hoad conducting the Manchester Camerata and Buxton Festival Chorus. The first performance is at the Opera House tonight. Another opera to receive its professional British premiere is Cavalli's *Jason*: Norman Kay's *Robin Hood*, written some 300 years after Cavalli, will receive its world premiere.

Cherubini turns up tomorrow, along with Mozart, Schubert and Mendelssohn, in a lecture-recital extended over the morning and afternoon by the Lindsey Quartet at the Palace Hotel. This is called "Revolution and Romanticism in the String Quartet", and Cherubini's influence on Beethoven will feature strongly in the afternoon. Tomorrow evening there is a concert at the Opera House by



Grecian zoo: The sweeping grandeur of The Crescent, Buxton

the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic beginning, oddly enough, with Cherubini's *Anacreon Overture*. Gauthier Herbig will also conduct Beethoven's "Eroica" Symphony and Anne Quatrecasle will solo in his Piano Concerto No 2.

Another programme which kicks off with Cherubini is that by the Manchester Camerata under Hoad, who begins with his D major Symphony at the Palace Hotel on August 12. In this Caroline Green sings arias by Gluck and Mozart. The concert ends with the latter's "Jupiter" Symphony.

A further performance by this versatile Manchester ensemble is at the Opera House on August 4. The festival also offers a considerable variety of exhibitions and lectures, including one by Basil Deane at St Ann's Hotel on August 11, on Cherubini.

Max Harrison

Information Centre, 10 Stratford Place, London W1 (498 8587). The Paganini Duo perform such violin and guitar pieces as Lawson's *Song of the Stender-Lipped Hellbore* and Krumpholtz's *Oshtino*.

BIRTWISTLE, BARTOK Wed, 7.30pm, Royal Albert Hall. The toughest listening at the Proms this week is provided by Birtwistle's *Nomos* and Three Movements and Fanfares, Bartok's *Sonata for Two Pianos* and Percussion, Bartok's *Sinfonia*. Edgar Howarth conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

INDEXED BAG Fri, 7.30pm, Royal Albert Hall. Bizet's youthful Symphony in C major, Saint-Saëns's gigantic Symphony in C minor, Berkeley's *Poems of St Teresa* and Mozart's *Two Piano Concertos K 385* soloists, Imogen Cooper and Anne Quatrecasle comprise this rather mixed-up Prom. BBC Kasparyk conducts the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET Covent Garden (240 1066). Until Aug 11, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm, matinees Sat at 2.30pm. A premiere, soloist Ashley Page's first choreography for Covent Garden, is given Thurs and Fri. The music is adapted by Michael Nyman from his score for the film *The Draughtsman's Contract* and the cast is young. With it are given Britney's splendid *Consort Lessons*, starring Lesley Collier and Alessandra Fermi, and Ashton's *Month in the Country*. Other programmes this week are *Roméo and Juliet* today, Michael Corder's new *Party Games* with *My Brother, My Sisters* and *Raymond* Act 3 on Mon and Wed and *The Sleeping Beauty* on Tues.

MICHAEL CLARK Riverside Studios, Hammeramith (748 3354). Opens Thurs at 8pm. Until Aug 8 (except Aug 6). One of Britain's foremost avant-garde dancer-choreographers

launches a new company with three other dancers and a programme comprising his provocative *New Puritans* and a new work. Move quickly if you want to see him.

FESTIVAL BALLET Dominion, Tottenham Court Road (580 9562). Until Aug 4, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm, matinees Sat at 3pm. The programme is *Giselle* tonight, Mon and Tues, then André Prokory's dramatic *The Storm* is given with *Les Sylphides* and *Scherzade* on Wed-Aug 4.

ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL Sadler's Wells (278 8815). Today at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Two works created for the students, Ashley Page's *Waiting*, *Running*, *Turning* and Richard Glasstone's *Children's Dances*, are included in this afternoon's programme. Tonight's performance includes Ashton's *Pas de Legumes* and the classic *Aurora's Wedding*.

ROCK & JAZZ

ELLA & NELSON Tonight, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London W1 (523 6832 or 498 6363).

A quarter of a century since their collaboration on 53 items of Gershwiniana, 20 years since their stroll through the gardens of Kern and Macroe, Miss Fitzgerald and Mr Riddle meet again. His peerless orchestral arrangements should ease away some of the signs of strain apparent nowadays when she sings with only a rhythm section's support. Tickets are from £45 to £255, supper included.

FREE NELSON MANDELA Today, Crystal Palace Bowl, London SE22 (633 1707). Jamaica's Jimmy Cliff tops the bill of this African Night Congress benefit, followed by Ladbrooke Grove's Aswad, Gil Scott-Heron of the United States and Hugh Masekela of South Africa. Some kind of summit meeting, particularly in view of the glowing reports given of recent appearances by Masekela, one of the early prophets of African pop. Noon-8pm, 25.

BRONSKI BEAT Tonight, St James's Church, Piccadilly, London W1 (Inquiries: 734 0656). An odd choice indeed to close the Piccadilly Festival, which this year incorporates the church's tercentenary. Bronski Beat are propagandists in the mould of the early Tom Robinson Band.

JOE TEMPERLEY Tonight, Pizza Express, 30 Dean Street, London W1 (438 6722). Once a stalwart of the Humphrey Lyttelton Band, Temperley took himself and his baritone saxophone to the United States several years ago for a successful sojourn which included a lengthy

stint with Woody Herman's orchestra. Tonight his quartet welcomes as a guest James Lyttelton alumnus, the excellent trombonist Roy Williams.

SOFT MACHINE Mon to Sat, Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Fifth Street, London W1 (438 0747). The original Soft Machine - Mike Ratledge, Hugh Hopper and Robert Wyatt, plus at various times David Allen, Kevin Ayers and Elton Dean - was the first rock group to perform at the Proms and the first to play a season at Scott's. Karl Jenkins and John Marshall, respectively keyboards/woodwind and drums, came along rather later, when the originals were peeling away, and took the group towards its demise. Now they are performing an exhumation, adding Dave McCrea the keyboard player, the guitarist John Etheridge and the outstanding saxophonist Ray

Warleigh. Do not venture out in the hope of hearing such classics of the Softs' early repertoire as "The Moon in June", but expect some worthy jazz-rock.

SADE Mon, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (828 3791). An excellent young singer, with a bend competent in some of the subtler arts which the critic and chronicler Chris Welch used to call contemporary rhythm music, she may nevertheless find the Festival Hall's antiseptic atmosphere and dodgy response to amplified instruments rather more than she can manage at this early stage of her career. Hammeramith Palace would have been a rung or three lower in class but a lot more like home.

BLOOMSBURY FESTIVAL Wed, Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1 (387 9629). Two stalwarts of the early English folk-rock scene are paired: Ashley Hutchings, a founder member of Fairport Convention, leads his Albion Band, while Bob Pegg, whose group called Mr Fox made several intriguing records in the early Seventies, brings in a new theatre-and-music troupe called Beasts. On Thurs, Mike and Kate Westbrook and Chris Biscoe perform *A Little Westbrook Music*, a pocket-sized digest of the music performed by Westbrook's orchestra and brassband. On Fri, John Harle's much acclaimed new Berliner Band plays the music of Eisler, Satie and Nyman.

Dancer John Percival; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock & Jazz: Richard Williams

OPERA

GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL

GLYNDEBOURNE, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 812411). Tonight, Tues and Fri at 5.30pm, Wed at 5.50pm.

As the Festival moves into its last month, John Cox's new production of *Arabella*, with its meticulously researched Viennese sets, is still going the way of the city slicker who moves to the country and falls for a Jersey cow. The other choice, telephone returns only, available at 10 each morning, is Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which opens on Wed in Peter Hall's production, now revived by Michael McCaffery. Elizabeth Gale is Tityrus, James Bowman Oberon, with Cynthia Buchanan and Jill Gomez as Hermia and Helena, and with Jean Piggy making her Glyndebourne debut.

It isn't too late to explore the Cradle of Civilisation at the most civilised time of year

Autumn is perhaps the ideal time to visit the famous cities and great historic sites of the Mediterranean.

The weather is comfortably warm. And places tend to be less crowded, so you can appreciate them as a traveller not a tourist. Autumn is also the time when the ancient Greeks celebrated the mysteries of the corn-goddess, Demeter. She ensured that the seed-corn sown in October was reborn in the Spring.

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THE WEEK

Sport

OLYMPICS: Saturday night sees the start of the Los Angeles Olympics. An 800-strong team of 1,000 athletes, and 2,000 dancers combine to bring the games to the official opening by President Reagan, the Olympic hymn is sung, and the Olympic torch is borne into the stadium at the end of its journey from Greece. The games cover 21 different sports, and 122 nations will battle for more than 1,000 medals over 15 days. Principal events include: Sunday: Cycling and swimming finals, boxing, and dressage. Monday: Swimming finals, cycling, rowing, boxing, and Britain's first match in the hockey tournament. Tuesday: Swimming finals, cycling, shooting, gymnastics, rowing. Cycling takes in the first round of the sprint, and boxing sees the start of the 12-strong British team's bid to win their first gold medal since Chris Finnegan's triumph in Mexico in 1968. Wednesday: Cycling, rowing, modern pentathlon, women's gymnastics, and the start of the equestrian eventing country. Thursday: Gymnastics, weightlifting, swimming, cycling, shooting, rowing, plus early stages of the ladies' volleyball. Friday: Heats of the first track competition of the games, including men's 100m. Also men's 200m walk, women's shot, and women's heptathlon. Saturday: The three-day competition of the games, including the ladies' volleyball. Full live coverage of events on BBC1 on a five-programme-per-day pattern. Olympic Breakfast, and Olympic Olympic Report, in the morning, early evening, and late evening round-up.

RACINGS: Five days of top class racing begin at Goodwood on Tuesday. The outstanding horse of the meeting is Chief Singer, second to El Gran Señor in the Guineas, winner of the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot and the July Cup at Newmarket. Live coverage BBC2 of opening races (from 8pm) and the season's richest handicap race of its kind. Racing at Ascot today features the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, with an excellent line-up of horses. **NATWEST TROPHY:** Cricket's 60 overs knockout competition reaches the quarter final stage on Wednesday and there are intriguing battles in prospect. Somerset, the holders, take on Kent at Taunton and Middlesex play Lancashire, victors in the Benson and Hedges, at Lord's. The other games are Warwickshire v Surrey at Edgbaston and Northants v Leicestershire at Northampton. The matches start at 10.30am and one of them is being covered on BBC 2.

Radio

FRANCES HOROVITZ: Excerpts from a celebration in Bristol's Colston Hall of the life of Frances Horowitz, the poet and teacher who died of cancer last October, aged 45. Includes recordings of Ted Hughes and P. J. Kennedy reading their own works. Radio 3, today, 9.40-10.10pm. **MALCOLM LOWRY:** Another tribute, this time celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of writer Malcolm Lowry's birth under the title *The Lighthouse Invites the Storm*. Graham Bowker considers Lowry's masterpiece *Under the Volcano* with the help of Hywel Bennett, who plays Lowry, and Norman Howley who reads from the work. Radio 4, today, 10.15-11pm.

WILLOUGHBY'S PHONEY WAR: Repeat of 1978 comedy starring Jeremy Irons before he was overtaken by languorous roles. Here he plays Charles Willoughby, an out-of-work actor and buffoon who joins up in 1939 to find himself in a series of ludicrous situations; his only battles are of wit and humour. Co-starring Anna Massey and Madeleine Smith. Radio 4, tomorrow, 2.30-4pm. Final part on Aug 4.

THE PARASITES: Start of a new book at *Bedtime* one of Daphne du Maurier's less well-known novels to be read in 12 parts by Penelope Lee. In truly sinister form, du Maurier's people are the parasites: the Delaney family who prey on the good fortune of one of their number who marries into an aristocratic family. Radio 4, Mon, 10.15-10.30pm.

RAMEAU'S NEPHEW: Eighteenth-century dialogue by Denis Diderot involving a clash of views between Diderot (Patrick Allen) who takes the mature moralistic line, and his nephew (Peter Woodthorpe) who postulates the irresponsible attitudes of the young. Radio 3, Tues, 9.30-10.15pm.

THE HISTORY OF ROCK: Taking the view that "it's about time someone took a swipe at the rock world", writer Roger Planer does just that in the first of a three-part history of rock, enlivened by re-enactments of pivotal moments from the birth of the blues to the death of Elvis. Radio 2, Thurs, 10.10-10.30pm.

DELVE SPECIAL: Spoof documentary on an apocryphal investigation into the "Shilton Airport Scandal". Corruption both business and sexual is discovered by the intrepid reporters to be behind the plot to build London's third airport near Birmingham. With *Afrisco* script Stephen Fry, Andrew Sachs and Brenda Blethyn. Radio 4, Fri, 11.30-12pm.



Women this week: Frances Horowitz remembered (top left); Daphne du Maurier on parasites; South African tennis players grace a 1920s postcard

Auctions

£150 CIGARETTE CARD: Four of the rarest in a Phillips sale of cigarette and postcard have an estimated £150 apiece. They are part of 20 sets of "Clown" cards produced by Taddy's tobacco company at the turn of the century. Other rare postcards to be auctioned include steam lorries of the 1920s (£10 each on average), newspapers and trams. Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (029 6602). Viewing Tues 9am-4.30pm, Wed 9-11am. Sale Wed at noon.

FRILLY FASHIONS: Three centuries of lace, lace-making equipment and textiles are to be auctioned at Phillips. A lacemaker's pillow, or working pad, with decorative turned and bone bobbins is estimated at £300. Phillips, Blenheim Street, London W1 (029 6602). Viewing Tues and Wed 9am-4.30pm. Sale Thurs at 11am.

Other events

SWALE HERITAGE FESTIVAL '84: Opportunities to enter some of the area's finest historic houses and rarely open gardens, two carnivals, and a medieval fayre are among the highlights of Swale's first heritage festival. Town walks have been organized around Faversham, Milton Regis, Queenborough and Sittingbourne, and a five-mile Sittingbourne Heritage Countryside Walk will be opened. Other events include a fête at Rushenden, with fancy dress and tug of war; Sheerness carnival procession; and Queenborough Quay Marathon Race followed by Reading Festival and Torchlight Procession. Today until Aug 12. Information from Tourist Information Centres in Kent, or telephone Sittingbourne (0795) 27651.

STITCHES IN TIME: Embroidery exhibition and workshops demonstrations to mark the golden jubilee of the Yorkshire Branch of the Embroiderers' Guild. Exhibition includes work by guild members, and historic items from the guild's own collection at Hampton Court. There are over 60 items, some dating from the early seventeenth century, showing examples of embroidered costumes, samplers and decorative work. Today, until Sept 9, at Cliffe Castle, Bradford. Free entry to demonstrations. Tickets £1 for three-day workshop (materials provided), information from Assistant Keeper of Education, Bradford (0274 64184).

MUSICA DEO SACRA WEEK: A celebration of liturgical music at Tewkesbury Abbey, by a group of semi-professional singers from cathedral, collegiate and recital choirs throughout England. The festival has been held for 16 years, and enables the more complex settings of the Mass and Graduale within their proper environment as part of the church liturgy. This year's programme includes works by Byrd, Monteverdi, Haydn, Mozart, Wesley and Vaughan Williams. Mon until Aug 5. For information contact Norma Hewlings, telephone Cheltenham (0242) 35504.

HARROGATE FESTIVAL: The nineteenth festival will reflect the anniversaries of the deaths of Elgar, Elgar, Holst and Delius, and the birthdays of Maxwell Davies, Britten and Panufnik. International celebrity concerts will feature some of the finest chamber ensembles, soloists and recitalists, together with drama, dance and literary events. Exhibitions and lectures on the theme of National Heritage Year. Wed until Aug 15. Information from William Dodds, Festival Office, Royal Baths, Harrogate, North Yorkshire (0423 62303).

FILMS

Emotional torments for trapped people

Persuading people to see a film called *Bleak Moments* is a little like persuading people to catch leprosy. Yet Mike Leigh's extraordinary British film of 1971, revived throughout August at the ICA, deserves attention and the title, though unfortunate, is appropriate.

The characters are trapped by social inhibitions and the daily drabness of suburban London. For the heroine Sylvia, life means sitting behind a desk in a chartered accountant's office, tending a mentally retarded sister, and talking awkwardly to a schoolteacher boyfriend who seems even more inhibited than herself. Consolation means a bottle of medium dry sherry (price 59p).

In the years since 1971, we have seen the price of cheap sherry rise, Mike Leigh's career has progressed through in media other than the cinema. For television, he devised various filmed plays, including *Nuts in May* (1976), *The Kiss of Death* (1977) and *Grown-Ups* (1980). His stage productions, once the preserve of the wilder type of fringe theatre, began to secure a foothold at the well-groomed Hampstead Theatre Club, and *Goose Pimples* (1981) reached the West End.

But *Bleak Moments* is no early apprentice work. With some six years of theatre activity behind him, Leigh had already evolved his distinctive working method. There was no pre-ordained script: characters and dialogue were devised instead through group improvisations with the actors (among

them, Anne Raitt and Eric Allan - both marvellous).

Yet despite the collective endeavour, a unique personal style persists. Leigh pins down his characters with verbal and physical ticks - nervous gasps of breath, grimaces, the fingering of a nose - and frequently channels emotional whirlpools of social rituals of eating and drinking into the hilariously depressing Chinese meal, or the hippie Norman incoherently munching on a biscuit. Throughout, there is much humour, and much compassion.

In production terms, however, *Bleak Moments* is distinctly a period piece. Finance came from Albert Finney and Michael Medwin's company Memorial Enterprises - at the time in the forefront of whatever progressive British cinema existed. Various other Memorial films can be seen at the ICA throughout August, among them Lindsay Anderson's *If... Finney's own *Charlie Bubbles*, Stephen Frears' *Gumshoe*, and Tony Scott's *Loving Memory*. It is an interesting but melancholy list, for the new talents that Memorial encouraged quickly turned to television or commercial, and left Britain's film industry to its own bleak moments.*

Geoff Brown

Bleak Moments (PG) and other films made by Memorial Enterprises play at the ICA Cinematheque, The Mall, London SW1 (030 3647) from Wed to Sept 2 (except Mon and Tues).



Teenager in love: Soccer fan Danny (Zoe Nathanson) and namesake in Julie Welch's *Glory Days*

Openings

LOVELY HEARTS: (15) A compact, touching Australian comedy from the quirky Paul Cox, later responsible for the beautiful *Man of Flowers*. Norman Kaye stars as the middle-aged bachelor attempting love with a shrinking violet. From Thurs at the Academy One (437 2981).

THOSE GLORY DAYS (PG) and **PTANG YANG KIPPERSANG (PG):** Two television films aired on

Channel 4 take advantage of a lean summer and attempt new life as a cinema double-bill. *Glory Days*, written by Julie Welch, spins a slender story about teenage soccer fans; director, Philip Saville. *PTang*, shown during Channel 4's second night in November 1982, offers a rosy childhood romp; directed by Michael Apted, written by Jack Rosenthal.

From Fri at the Classic Haymarket (839 1527), Classic Tottenham Court Road (636 6148).

Selected

THE KING AND MR BIRD (U) ICA Cinema (930 3647). Paul Grimsault and Jacques Prévert's delightful animated fable about freedom and repression, with a fetching cast of birds, beasts and tyrannical kings, plus a giant mechanical robot. Aspects have dated since the film's conception in 1948, but there are constant visual delights.

SUNDAY IN THE COUNTRY (PG) Chelsea Cinema (351 3742). An elderly academic painter's family come to visit one Sunday in the summer of 1912: cue for a meticulously beautiful film by Bertrand Tavernier (winner of the best director prize at Cannes). Death and disappointment pervade the scenes, giving a sharp edge to the pastoral prettiness.

AND THE SHIP SAILS ON (15) Academy One, Oxford Street (457 2981). Unit Well. All aboard the SS Federico Fellini for a symbolic ocean trip in the summer of 1914, with an assorted company of opera singers, politicians, Serbian peasants and anarchists, and one smelly rhinoceros. Partly brilliant, partly lame and strained, Freddie Jones heads a populous, British-flavoured cast.

OVER THE EDGE (18) Screen on the Green, Islington (226 3520). Cut American youth movie made in 1979 by Jonathan Kaplan, subsequent director of *Heart Like a Wheel*. This is a rowdy tale of rebel teenagers in a suburban community, with a cast including Matt Dillon and Vincent Spano and a cleverly integrated sound track.

SWANN IN LOVE (18) Lumiere (836 6691). Schlöndorff's film merely dips into Proust's novel sequence, but therein lies its success. Swann's infatuation with the beautiful but dubious Odette is conveyed with clarity, calm, exquisite photography, and there is an expert central performance from Jeremy Irons.

The information in this column was correct at the time of going to press. Late changes are often made and it is advisable to check, using the telephone numbers given.

Sport and Auctions: Anne Whitehouse; Radio: Sarah Jane Checkland

THEATRE

Congreve's world is an actor's joy

To complete Chichester's most distinguished season for some years, *The Way of the World* will be directed by William Gaskill with a cast including Maggie Smith and Michael Jayston (as Millamant and Mirabell), Joan Plowright, Sara Kestelman, Ian Hogg, John Moffatt, James Villiers, and Jane Carr.

Gaskill has never touched this play before, though his vivid and unaffected style in Restoration comedy (such as *The Recruiting Officer* and *The Beau's Stratagem* at the National, both with Maggie Smith) is a mainstay of his reputation. He can seldom have had such a cast before, either. "This is an actors' piece, and the great joy of it for me is steering such an immensely experienced group of people through it: it's difficult, but that's the fascination of it. Even down to the smallest parts. You know it's been said that no two Congreve characters, even the servants, sound the same. He is the great master of character through words, through writing of extraordinary accuracy and originality."

Gaskill also points out that,



William Gaskill: a vivid and unaffected style

unlike so many plays of the period with their frequent references to familiar London localities, there are very few links with the outside world and one cannot imagine the characters having a separate life in it. Hence the curiously trapped atmosphere as they manoeuvre for financial and sexual prosperity.

"Mirabell is very enigmatic; even Gielgud was never happy about his performance. Where has he come from? What are his

aims? You know with the two men in *The Beau's Stratagem* that their intrigue is motivated by lack of funds, and that may be true of Mirabell but he never says so.

"Socially these characters are not defined; they have very little given background and seem to exist only for the play."

There is also - and Gaskill must be sick of people saying it - the notoriously complicated plot. He has resisted the temptation to reorder scenes in the interests of clarity, though he quite sees why Giles Haywards' recent Greenwich production did so.

"You really don't learn much in Congreve's first act. But it does give that strong image of the two protagonists, one of whom will finally defeat the other, facing each other at the beginning over the card table; you don't know which is the hero and which is the villain."

Indeed, in modern eyes (though not apparently in Congreve's) Mirabell's conduct makes it difficult for us to give him unqualified approval. "But you must just get through that first act, and you easily can. It

may be perplexing, but it is never boring."

The first production at Lincoln's Inn Fields in 1700 was an indifferent success, and Congreve abandoned writing at the age of 30 to live the second half of his life as a country gentleman. Gaskill sees nothing strange either in the impulse to throw over the whole messy and unsatisfactory business of theatre, or in doing so at 30, by which time if you had not written any good plays you probably never would.

But, even if Congreve did not regret his decision, surely his actors did. His companion Anne Bracegirdle, whose beauty and chastity caused equal astonishment at the time, had had the last of the great leading roles he wrote for her. This week, at Chichester, Maggie Smith will inherit what Gaskill terms "as sophisticated a part as has ever been written."

Anthony Masters

The Way of the World plays in repertory at the Chichester Festival Theatre from Mon, with Wed as official first night.

Openings

ABEL'S SISTER: A disabled woman visits her brother and his wife, a wounded US serviceman is also there. Lee Waters directs this play by Yolande Bourcier and Timberlake Wertenbaker. Royal Court Theatre Upstairs, Sloane Square, London SW1 (730 2554). Preview Thurs, Fri, Aug 4 and 6 at 7.30 pm, opens Aug 6 at 7.30 pm, then Mon-Sat at 7.30 pm in repertory.

BASHVILLE: David Williams and Benny Green adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's *The Admirable Bashville*, with music by Denis King, lyrics by Benny Green. A new opening and three new songs have been added to the production seen at the Park last year and well received. David Williams directs Peter Woodward, Felicity Jane Goodson, Christopher Hancock. Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, London NW1 (462 2451). Preview Mon at 8 pm, opens Tues at 8 pm, then Wed-Aug 4 at 8 pm; matinees Thurs and Aug 4 at 2.30 pm. In repertory.

COPING: David Evans's new play, with Peter Straker in a leading role, directed by Robert Longdon, is a comedy which centres on a divorced couple who find that changing partners adds to rather than solves their problems. New End Theatre, 27 New End, London NW1 (462 8053). Opens Wed at 8 pm, until Aug 12, Tues-Sat at 8 pm.

FORTY YEARS ON: Chichester Festival Theatre production of Alan Bennett's comedy, set in a rundown public school. Paul Eddington, Dore Hare, Stephen Fry, Wendy Law, David Horvitch and 20 schoolchildren, directed by Patrick Garland, with Matthew Francis. The original 1988 production established Bennett, and Garland, and was acclaimed as among the most important plays of the decade. Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1 (734 1155). Preview from Tues, Mon-Fri at 7.30 pm, Sat at 5 pm and 8.15 pm. Opens Aug 13 at 7 pm, then as previews.

Selected

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS Cottesloe, (826 2252). Fri at 7.30 pm. In repertory. David Mamet's menacing account of the shark-eat-sprat world of US real-estate salesmen has a resonance that spreads wider: a cast including Jack Shepherd in top form do it justice.

GOLDEN BOY Lyttelton, (826 2252). Tues-Thurs at 7.45 pm; matinee Thurs at 5 pm. In repertory. Clifford Odets's parable of a young boxer-musician in the New York of the Depression, sacrificing art to fist and fortune, is naive as well as dubious. Odets is conveyed with clarity, calm, exquisite photography, and there is an expert central performance from Jeremy Irons.

PACK OF LIES Lyric (437 3586). Mon-Fri at 7.30 pm, Sat at 5 pm and 8.15 pm; matinees Wed at 3 pm. Hugh Whitmore's powerful study of a decent couple whose quiet suburban life is destroyed by a Kroger-style spy case, Mary Miller has replaced Judi Dench. Michael Williams remains. There are more cast changes at the beginning of August.

PASSION PLAY Wyndham's (836 3028). Mon-Fri at 8 pm, Sat at 5 pm and 8.30 pm; matinees Wed at 3 pm. Surely the best comedy in London. Witty, sad and dazzlingly intricate, Peter Nichols's award-winning 1981 play about unwinning adultery now stars Leslie Phillips and Judy Parfitt, with Barry Foster and Zena Walker offering advice and reproach as their identically dressed inner selves.

Out of Town

CAMBRIDGE: Arts Theatre, St Edwards Passage (0223 352000). Anything Goes by Cole Porter, P. G. Wodehouse and Guy Bolton. Opens Fri at 8 pm, until Aug 11, Mon-Sat at 8 pm; matinees Sat at 4.30 pm.

New touring company, Cambridge Independent Theatre present the spectacular 1934 musical. The production moves to the Bloomsbury Theatre, London from Aug 13, and Kings Theatre, Southsea, from Aug 27.

CHICHESTER: The Merchant of Venice. Today at 2.30 pm, 7.30 pm. Fri at 7.30 pm. In repertory. Patrick Garland directs Alec Guinness, Joanna McCulloch, Jane Carr. *The Way of the World* by William Congreve. Preview Mon and Tues at 7.30 pm. Opens Wed at 7 pm; Thurs at 2.30 pm and 7.30 pm. In repertory. See feature.

LIVERPOOL: Playhouse, Williamson Square, Liverpool (051 709 8363). *Covers of Dreams* by Carol Ann Duffy, Bill Morrison and Spencer Leigh. Opens Fri at 7.30 pm, until Sept 22, Mon-Fri at 7.30 pm, Sat at 8 pm; matinees Sat at 4 pm.

A celebration of the "Merseybeat era" and the story of a rock group who could have been one of the hundreds of local bands who lived and played at the Cavern Club in the 60s and 60s. Andrew Schofield, Ian Hart, John Wild, Michael Starks, Paul Codman and Jeanette Dobson, directed by Bill Morrison.

STRATFORD: Royal Shakespeare Theatre (0783 285223). The Merchant of Venice. Today, Thurs and Fri at 7.30 pm. In repertory. New production, directed by John Caird, with Ian McKellen as Bassanio, Frances Tomelty as Portia. Henry V. Mon at 7.30 pm. In repertory.

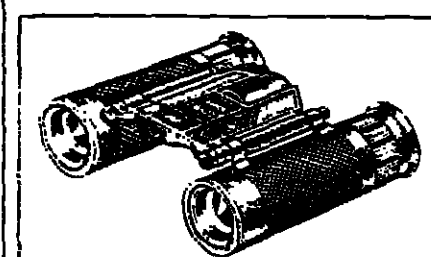
Kenneth Branagh, with Bernard Horsfall, Brian Blessed, Sebastian Shaw, in a new production directed by Adrian Noble. Richard III. Today and Thurs at 1.30 pm, Tues and Wed at 7.30 pm. In repertory.

Anthony Sher in the title role, with Patricia Routledge, Brian Blessed, Christopher Gartin, in a new production. The Other Place (0783 285223). Camille by Pam Gems. Today at 7.30 pm, Thurs and Fri at 7.30 pm. In repertory.

Ron Daniels directs this new adaptation of *La Dame aux Camélias*. Frances Barber, Alphonse Emmanuel, Nicholas Farrell. Golden Girls by Louise Page. Tues and Wed at 7.30 pm. In repertory. Premiere production of play about aspiring Olympic athletes. First black and white. Barry Kyle directs. Romeo and Juliet. Mon at 7.30 pm. In repertory. John Caird directs Amanda Root, Simon Templeman, Roger Allan, Polly James.

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THE TIMES

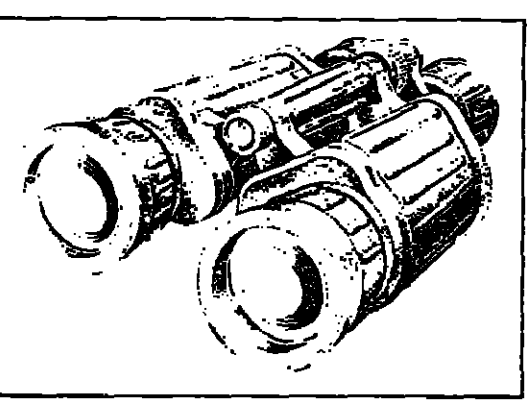
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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Brittle smile on the face of sterling

It seems to take precious little to knock the pound nowadays. Even as the United States posted an even bigger trade deficit for June, while Britain's modest trade deficit for the month declined, despite the coal strike, sterling dropped more than two cents against the dollar yesterday. It closed at \$1.3105 in London, having fallen still lower during the day.

The "elastic" between British and American interest rates is now not at all stretched, after the 2½ per cent rise in British rates and the comforting hope to be drawn from Mr Paul Volcker's remarks that American rates are less likely to rise. If this straightforward explanation of sterling weakness is no longer satisfactory, what is the cause? Yesterday's disturbing answer was the inflated rumour of "the collapse of Opec". As the markets saw reason the pound recovered, but seemed to find it a long climb back.

The weakness in the oil markets translated into a lower inflation prospect for the United States. Gold, too, fell back, down \$6.87 in London at \$336.80. But Britain's petrocurrency suffered more than others, dropping against the Europeans, so that its trade-weighted "effective" index fell 0.6 points to 78.4.

From one point of view this is good news: so far as the Treasury is concerned, it means that any loss in North Sea oil revenues from a fall in the price is likely to be made up by a fall sterling against the currency in which oil is priced. But the fragility of the pound revealed by this July squall of misunderstanding is more than a little disturbing.

Uncle Sam goes bail for Continental

Continental Illinois' extended shareholders were left in little doubt a couple of days ago about the fate which faced them. Either they accepted the deal offered by the federal authorities in America's biggest bank bailout or else they lost their capital. In the circumstances there can be little doubt that the rescue plan will be approved.

However, the questions raised reach well beyond the admittedly considerable and complex difficulties of Continental Illinois. The question now in banking circles is where does the rescue place all the other American banks between the relatively modest Penn Square, which went under, and the Chicago bank which was regarded as too big to fail.

The authorities have been careful to leave an element of market interest in the shape of the deposits from more than 40 commercial banks. While it is true that possible losses of the authorities are secured against such assets and profits as Continental Illinois' is fortunate enough still to possess, its commercial bank creditors are left to fend for themselves.

In the longer term, the federal agencies who lent their names to the rescue have also signalled their hope that in a few years they will have discharged their commitments. To that extent the "nationalization" of Continental Illinois is supposed to be temporary. Even if that does prove to be so, the American taxpayer may well find that the stake involuntarily acquired in Continental Illinois is not the most profitable investment conceivable.

But will the authorities ever extricate themselves from the imbroglio? Everything depends on depositors being willing to entrust their money to Continental Illinois once again. The international banks may well take the line - to all intents and purposes the position of the American authorities - that supporting the Chicago bank is the least of the evils. And if Uncle Sam underwrites the returns, why not?

In a sense, however, the fact that Continental Illinois will probably live to fight another day poses more problems than it solves. If the authorities are prepared to bail out one of the top 10 biggest banks in the United States, how many of the others can assume that they

too are underwritten by the American taxpayer? The answer could make a profound difference to the resolution of the international debt crisis.

West Germany bolsters bond market

West Germany's proposal to abolish its withholding tax on bonds, following hard on the heels of the American decision, is another big step towards the creation of an unfettered international market in fixed-interest securities. As such, it should give a welcome encouragement to a bond market battered by persistently high interest rates.

The motives of the German authorities are not, of course, entirely altruistic. It is worth remembering that 20 years ago the Bundesbank tried to stem the inflow of foreign capital which it believed would be inflationary. The boot is now on the other foot. Although the Deutschmark has held up fairly well against the dollar, and Germany has been one of the prime beneficiaries of the American export boom, the federal government is nervous about its ability to dispose of official paper.

When the World Bank can command a discount in Deutschmarks of 20 or 30 points compared with the German federal government, something is clearly amiss. This fact was fully recognizable last week when the market, having caught wind of possible relaxations, drove the yield on Deutschmark paper not subject to the withholding tax below the paper which was subject to the tax.

The equalization will be appreciated particularly by the influential Swiss investors, who tend to take small positions in the market. But it should be remembered that last year Deutschmark issues accounted for about 13 per cent, the second biggest percentage, of the \$4 trillion international bond market.

The ramifications, therefore, are extensive. If (as is expected) the new provisions will effectively be back-dated, there could be a minor influx into official Deutschmark paper.

Predators lurk for Jaguar

The international telephone wires have been humming since Thursday with potential investors from all over the world ringing their London brokers to inquire how to get on the Jaguar bandwagon.

Next week's offer for sale looks like arousing all manner of cosmopolitan interest, as befits a company whose name still stands for something positive outside Britain.

There has been some confusion as to how far overseas investors will be allowed to buy and deal in Jaguar's shares once it has been floated, so it is worth spelling out the obstacles. There is no effective bar, other than exchange controls and so on, on overseas investors applying for or dealing in the shares - except, that is, for Americans who have to cope with the strictures of the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding new issues. There has been no prospectus filed with the SEC, which prevents Americans applying for the shares.

The hope of foreign buyers coming in is a key attraction of the Jaguar issue. There is considerable speculation that one of the world's big motor manufacturing outfits such as Ford, General Motors or one of the Japanese companies, will emerge at some stage after the flotation with the maximum permitted 15 per cent holding in Jaguar.

GM made a rather clumsy attempt to buy Jaguar outright while the Government was pondering how to go about privatizing it. Although the Government is keeping its golden share until the end of 1990 to block any takeover and the 15 per cent ceiling on shareholdings will last until the same date, any predator probably has little to lose - and something to gain defensively - by moving in before then.

Investment prospects, page 25

Britain acts to calm market by holding to BNOC price

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Britain and Nigeria have both moved to bring stability to the world oil market where a bout of rumours in the last 24 hours has led to a fall in both sterling and the world gold price.

Britain has again said that it is close to an agreement on North Sea oil prices for the third quarter, leaving the Brent market price unchanged at \$30. Nigeria has categorically denied rumours that it is about to leave Opec to enable it to increase output above its new Opec quota of 1.4 million barrels, which comes into effect on Wednesday.

The British National Oil Corporation said yesterday that it had reached "virtually unanimous" agreement with its suppliers and customers that the North Sea oil price structure will be unchanged, despite prices on the Rotterdam spot market for Brent crude being almost \$3 a barrel lower than the official price.

However, dealers in Europe

and in New York said yesterday that they felt that this was a low price which would be seen only for a very short period, as demand remains low and overproduction from Opec countries last month filters through to the market.

Opec's June output is estimated to have been 18.7 million barrels a day compared with an agreed maximum of 17.5 million.

BNOC's holding of North Sea oil prices will be welcomed by the Government, if not by contract customers who had been hoping for a reduction to nearer the Opec market price of \$29.

The Department of Energy, however, said yesterday that government policy remained that the pricing of North Sea oil was a commercial matter between BNOC, its suppliers and its customers.

However, Mr Mehdi Varzi, the oil industry analyst at Griverson Grant, in a statement to clients, said: "If there is any



David West: Nigeria stays an Opec member

its trading operations during periods of oil price uncertainty." In a statement issued yesterday through the Opec secretariat in Vienna, Dr Tani David West, the Nigerian oil minister, denied rumours that Nigeria was about to leave Opec.

He said: "Opec will go from strength to strength and Nigeria will continue to belong to the organization. The strength of Opec is in members not taking unilateral decisions."

However, Nigeria will start August with a new production ceiling of 1.4 million barrels a day rising to 1.45 million barrels a day from September 1. It is convinced that its new quota will form the basis for further negotiations on production increases in September.

In Glasgow yesterday Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, the Energy Minister, said that a study showed that orders worth \$750m were now available to British companies if they kept their prices competitive with those of other European yards.

SE Council suspends Kemp, Mitchell

By Philip Robinson and Alison Eastle

The Stock Exchange Council last night ordered the total suspension from trading of the four-partnership firm Kemp, Mitchell & Company pending an investigation into the conduct of the business of the firm.

It is the second time the exchange has taken such action against one of its member firms. The first was against Hallday, Shipson.

The exchange announced the suspension in a terse statement just after 5 pm. Mr Robin Sturges-Darling, chairman of the exchange's quotations committee said: "I can make absolutely no comment. I would not assume anything."

Mr Jonathan Steel junior, a partner with the firm, said last night: "I am shocked and surprised by what has happened. I don't know what it is all about. But the last thing we want is to be secretive about whatever has happened."

Kemp Mitchell's partners are Mr Terence Mitchell, Mr Alan Kemp and Mr Donald Gittings. The group employs 50 people.

Kemp Mitchell's business involves United Kingdom equities, traded options and euro-bonds.

It is understood that problems may have occurred in the firm's Eurobond-related business over the past year. Amounts of up to \$500,000 (£382,000) are thought to be involved.

At the centre of the problem appears to be the absence of time stamps for transactions in the Eurobond market. It is thought that this enables certain traders to gain an advantage.

US deficit climbs by \$8.9 bn

From Bailey Morris Washington

The American trade deficit continued its relentless climb last month, widening by \$8.9 billion (\$6.6 billion) as the soaring dollar cut the volume of exports and increased imports.

Commerce Department officials said the deficit for the year now stands at \$59 billion. They are projecting a record deficit of \$130 billion for the year, almost double the previous record of \$69 billion last year.

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the Secretary of Commerce, said yesterday that in the second half of the year he expected the monthly trade deficits to be higher than the June figures.

He said: "Continuing growth in our economy will raise imports further and despite export gains, will push US trade deficits higher."

America has had a deficit each month this year, continuing a two-year trend which has exacerbated strong protectionist pressures in an election year.

Shares setback for STC bid

By Jeremy Warner

The \$347m bid by Standard Telephones and Cables for ICL, Britain's largest independent computer manufacturer, appeared to be in trouble last night less than two days after it was launched.

STC's share price continued to slide on the stock market shedding a further 10p to 266p and in the process devaluing the worth of its two-for-seven share swap terms to 76p per ICL share.

The offer was underwritten on Thursday by Morgan Grenfell, STC's merchant bank, at 270p to give a cash alternative bid of 77p per ICL share.

STC was unperturbed by this early setback in its bid for control. Mr George Magan, a

director of Morgan Grenfell, said: "It is common to get this sort of price reaction in the early days of a bid. As the rationale for the merger becomes more generally appreciated, I would expect the price of the STC shares and by implication the value of the offer, to strengthen considerably."

ICL directors remained tight-lipped on their attitude to STC's surprise offer. They have already rejected the bid as too low, but have yet to say anything on the industrial logic of a merger with STC.

Sir Michael Edwards, ICL's executive chairman, refused to comment when questioned after chairing a shareholders' meeting

of the Chloride Group in London.

Company sources said that the ICL board accepted STC's broad case about the convergence of telecommunications and computer technology, but has yet to be convinced that the two companies are product complementary and was annoyed about the way STC launched its "out of the blue" bid.

S G Warburg, ICL's merchant bank, was a strong buyer of ICL shares in the stock market yesterday, but this failed to stop their price drifting lower in the absence of any further news from ICL. They closed 2p down at 82p.

Inspector reports on Fraser deals

By Philip Robinson

Mr John Griffiths, QC, has completed his investigation into the dealing in House of Fraser shares after almost a year.

His report was passed to the Department of Trade and Industry this week and is likely to be made public.

However, it is improbable that any statement will be made in the Parliamentary recess next Thursday.

Mr Griffiths was appointed by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry last August to find out whether House of Fraser shareholders have been making secret agreements between themselves on how to vote their holdings.

It was the first time a government inspector had been appointed to check such deals

and resulted in a significant shift of voting pattern in the complex and long-running battle between House of Fraser and Lorrho, its main shareholder, with a 29.9 per cent stake.

Secret agreements - known as "concert parties" - are outlawed under 1981 Companies Act. The offence carries an unlimited fine and or two years imprisonment.

Doubts over Esal rescue

Some doubts were being cast last night over the rescue of Esal (Commodities), the sugar trading company whose biggest customer was Nigeria but which has not traded since last January and has debts of \$212m (\$161.7m).

Mr Graham Butler, chief executive of the Allied Arab Bank, one of seven which has put its name to a new rescue plan, said yesterday: "I have doubts even if a scheme is agreed that it will get off the ground because of discouraging news from Nigeria."

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 985.8 down 3.5 (high: 999.8; low: 988.1) FT Index: 778.4 down 1.1
FT 1000: 76.16 up 0.36
FT All Share: N/A
Barrington USM Leaders Index: 93.1 down 0.74
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1114.17 up 8.82
New York: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,036.12 up 103.54
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 785.99 up 22.92
Amsterdam: 148.5 down 0.8
Sydney: AG Index 683.7 down 1.2
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 936.2 up 3.9

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.3105 down 2.10 cents
Index 78.4 down 0.6
DM 3.78 down 0.0125
FF 11.5875 down 0.03
Yen 321.25 down 3.0
Dollars 137.3 up 1.0
DM 2.8820 up 0.0330
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.3105
Dollar DM 2.8867
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.58354
SDR £0.78555

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 12
Finance houses base rate 9½
Discount market loans week fixed 12½-12
3 month interbank 12¼-12½
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11¼-11½
3 month DM 5¼-5½
3 month FF 12-11½
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13.00
Fed funds 11½
Treasury long bond 103½-130½

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$336.15 pm \$335.25
close \$336.57 (256.00-256.75)
New York (latest): \$335.50
Krugerrand (per coin):
\$346.00-347.50 (\$263.75-264.75)
Sovereigns (new):
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chequepoint

chequepoint is criticised for charging more than the Banks. But the Banks have rigged their rates. Heres whats been said in another place at another time.

A REPORT BY THE NATIONAL CONSUMER COUNCIL REQUESTED BY HM GOVERNMENT IN SPRING '82 AND PUBLISHED ON 14th DECEMBER 1983

Appendix IV
Pages
231-238

"Another reason why the big banks keep their charges down - it provides a market in which to cross sell profitable business like personal loans credit cards and insurance operations and equally importantly to stave off competition from newer and small institutes"

EVIDENCE BY THE COMMITTEE OF LONDON CLEARING BANKERS TO THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE FUNCTIONS OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Para 3.5

"The Clearing Banks are also the main domestic source of foreign currency... and they keep stocks of currency in their tills for the purpose. However, reluctance of users of their services to bear the full cost have made it impossible to take account of increases in labour and other costs."

Para 3.30

"As a result charges now cover only about 20% of the cost of providing the services and there is a considerable degree of cross-subsidisation between the users of money services and other bank customers."

As you can see from what they themselves admit the banks only charge a fifth of the true cost when, say, a tourist changes money. So who pays the difference (since you can be sure it's not the banks)? You do through your credit cards, personal loans etc. as the National Consumer Council have confirmed. You subsidise the bank and the tourist. And Chequepoint is 'compared' against a rigged rate. Here are some more facts not readily trumpeted by the bankers' clique: Chequepoint opens 165 hours a week compared to the banks 35 hours. Is that worth a small premium? Chequepoint's unsubsidised margins are possibly the lowest in the retail business. And chequepoint sells (don't confuse with buying) foreign currency at rates fully competitive with the banks.

SAY NO TO HIDDEN BANK CHARGES - USE CHEQUEPOINT

ISSUED BY PRESTOIL INC., 80, NATHAN ROAD, KOWLOON, HONG KONG

NEWS IN BRIEF

BET bid referred

British Electric Traction's £175m bid for the outstanding 60 per cent of the laundry group Initial that it does not already own has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

BET also owns 80 per cent of Advance Cleaning and Initial and Advance together have 64 per cent of the cabinet towel market.

● **BRITOL IS PAYING** an interim dividend of 3.3p (unchanged) for the six months to June 30, after announcing interim profits of £280m, (£274.8m). Net profits were £5.4m. (£52.5m)
Times, page 22

● **PRETAX PROFITS** at Lax Service rose 54 per cent to £26.9m in the six months to July 1 on turnover 39 per cent higher. The interim dividend was raised 11 per cent to 4.1p net.
Times, page 22

● **LLOYDS BANK** is to raise £100m by an issue of floating rate notes. The notes will be redeemable in 1996 and carry a coupon of ½ per cent over three months Libor.

Rebellion thwarted at Chloride

An attempt by rebel shareholders of Chloride Group to elect Dr Maurice Gillbrand to the company's board was defeated at the annual meeting in London yesterday.

Dr Gillbrand, a former head of research at Chloride, has been strongly critical of the group's management and fought a widely publicized campaign

But he was backed by only 13 out of a total of about 100 shareholders, while proxy votes the victory group's board was defeated at the annual meeting in London yesterday.

Dr Gillbrand, a former head of research at Chloride, has been strongly critical of the group's management and fought a widely publicized campaign

the new firm with several million pounds of initial capital and has an option to increase its interest in the stockbroker from the present 29.9 per cent to 100 per cent when Stock Exchange rules permit.

The Stock Exchange is drawing up new rules governing membership of the market which are likely to be published in draft form in the autumn.

PB's successful bid to set up as a stockbroker has been criticized by a number of established firms as a cut-price way into the market and provoked the exchange's council into introducing a new rule limiting investment by non-members of the Exchange in

US-backed firm opens on Monday

Confidence at new broker

By Jeremy Warner

PB Securities, Down de Bosc & Duckett, the first big London stockbroker firm to be created in the last decade, is confident of achieving a "good level of business" when it begins trading on Monday.

The firm was set up by two former partners of James Capel with substantial financial backing for PB Securities, a leading New York brokerage house.

Many stockbroker firms have forged links with companies which are not members of the London market over the last year, but PB Securities is the first to be associated with a stockbroker in the United States.

PB Securities has provided

say new stockbroker enterprise to a maximum stake of 10 per cent.

This was intended as an interim measure which will be superseded by the new membership rules in the autumn.

Liberalization of the membership rules was a key part of the deal the Stock Exchange struck with the Government last summer and it is now busy trying to reconcile this aim with existing membership demands that outsiders pay dearly for corporate entry into the market.

PB has a staff of 25 but this will rise to more than 40 by the end of the year if business grows according to plan.

UNIT TRUSTS

Commission
may go
up to 20%

New investors in unit trust savings plans may find themselves having to pay first year broking commissions of up to 20 per cent by the end of the summer. At present unit trust companies which are members of the Unit Trust Association pay up to 3 per cent a year to recognized brokers.

The UTA has written to members canvassing their opinions on a new agreement allowing commissions of up to 20 per cent in the first year of savings schemes, and then further payments after the sixth year.

If it receives the favourable response it expects, it will be ratified in September.

Since the cost of the new commission will be borne by the investor on joining a scheme it will be a strong disincentive to withdraw early.

Although some unit trust companies may choose to return the commission and bear the cost themselves if the investor withdraws within the first few months, few are likely to do so since it could prove extremely expensive.

Several management companies are considering the new commission structure as a way of persuading brokers to sell unit trust schemes instead of insurance-linked plans.

Richard Thomson

Earth tremor checks

Mr Joseph Bradshaw, who produces Bradshaw's Guide to Do-it-Yourself House Buying, Selling and Conveyancing, says housebuyers should be particularly wary following this week's widely-felt earth tremor. "Do not rely entirely on anyone else - they have been known to make mistakes. You can sue later, but who wants the bother," he says.

"So if you are buying a house, particularly one that has been built since 1976 in any of these areas, please read carefully the instructions contained in the guide", is his recommendation. Mr Bradshaw also suggests that you should not rely entirely on a survey carried out before the earth tremor. "Make a trip to the house and cast your eyes over it closely and from a distance before proceedings go any further," he says.

Copies of Bradshaw's Guide to Do-it-Yourself House Buying, Selling and Conveyancing are available from Castle Books, 5 Blackdown, Leamington Spa, CV32 6BA. Price £5 (paperback) £8.45 (hardback) plus 50p post and packaging.

Student offer

All first year students opening a current account at Lloyds Bank before October 31, will receive a free £6 voucher, redeemable at about 3,000 bookshops in Britain.

They will also have the opportunity of winning prizes worth £20,000 in the new Lloyds Bank Student Award competition. One hundred prizes of £200 each are being offered to students who correctly answer six general knowledge questions, and complete a tie-break sentence.

All student account holders will be able to take subscriptions to the Economist and New Scientist magazines at discount prices. Free banking is offered on all accounts - even those which overdraw up to £100. Overdrafts are by arrangement, and although no bank charges are payable, interest is charged.

Guaranteed yield

A guaranteed net yield of 10 per cent equivalent to 14.25 per cent gross to the basic rate taxpayer is being offered by Imperial Life on its new 5-year guaranteed income bond.

Minimum investment is £1,000 and the net income is payable annually. In the event of death during the term, the original investment is returned, together with an additional £7.10 per £1,000 invested for each complete month since the previous year's income payment. The maximum age of entry is 80.

Further details from: The Imperial Life Group of Companies, Imperial Life House, London Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1TA (Tel: 0485 571255).

The table toppers

Which is the most efficient building society? According to the Cheltenham & Gloucester, it comes top of the efficiency league table with management expenses of 0.83 per £100 of mean total assets. Britannia is in second place with a figure of 1.09 per cent with Woolwich, Nationwide and Halifax in third, fourth and fifth places with expense ratios of 1.19 per cent, 1.23 per cent and 1.25 per cent respectively.

Share rate rise

Lambeth Building Society's High Yield Share interest rate is being increased by 1.60 per cent to 9.65 per cent per annum net of basic rate tax from next Wednesday. This is equivalent to 13.79 per cent gross for the basic rate taxpayer.

Minimum investment is £500 and maximum £30,000 with withdrawal facilities at 28 days' notice. Further details available from Lambeth Building Society, 118/120 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7XE (Tel: 01-928 1331).



I'll say this for him - he always rewards good work

Housing costs

Housing Finance: Who Gains? by John Ermisch is a study that shows how the tax treatment of owner-occupiers, the rent-setting and allocation practices of local authorities, and rent control in the private sector can produce a divergence between the cost of housing faced by the consumer and the cost of producing the same.

Such a divergence is called a subsidy, and the study uses the Family Expenditure Survey to measure the size and distribution of these subsidies.

Analysis of the distribution of these housing subsidies concludes that "they are inefficient, encouraging overproduction of housing at the upper end of the market while leaving many poor people inadequately housed". A reform of the housing market accompanied by a new way of helping poor people afford decent housing is proposed.

Copies available from Policy Studies Institute, 1/2 Castle Lane, London SW1E

6DR (Tel: 01-828 7055). Price £3.50, including post and packaging.

US motoring cover

Public concern about motor insurance in the US, first highlighted in The Times, has prompted car hirers Hertz to arrange \$1 million extra cover for United Kingdom residents visiting the US at just £2.19 a day.

The standard Hertz USA rental agreement already provides basic cover for death or bodily injury of \$100,000 per person and \$25,000 for property damage, included in the cost of the car rental. The new policy covers claims against the Hertz driver or authorized driver above the standard Hertz USA limits.

There is provision for compensation for death or injury to the Hertz client and passengers when caused by a motorist who is uninsured (including hit-and-run accidents) or whose insurance is invalidated or is inadequate to meet the amount of award.

The new cover is available only to United Kingdom residents and must be arranged and bought before the traveller leaves the United Kingdom. The necessary forms are mailed to every client on request by the Hertz reservation office.

Penalty-free cash

Paddington Building Society has streamlined further its higher rate notice accounts since the launch of its Emergency Card, which allows one penalty-free withdrawal of up to £2,500 every year. Penalty-free withdrawals will be allowed on the Seven Day Account, which pays 8.75 per cent net of basic rate tax, and on the one month notice Flexible Account (8.25 per cent).

In addition, the society now permits instant withdrawals on the Seven Day Account with a one-week interest penalty. Further details from Paddington Building Society.

Loans to partners

Partners in accountancy and solicitors' practices will be able to release personal capital locked into their partnerships or raise fresh funds with a new, tax efficient loan scheme offered by Royal Trust.

Unsecured loans of between £15,000 and £100,000 will be available to individual members of practices with more than 10 partners, and secured loans are available to smaller partnerships.

Only interest is repaid during the period of the loan, there is a competitive interest rate at 2 per cent above London Inter Bank offer rate and repayment of capital is made from a personal pension plan. The scheme also offers three-way tax benefit on interest payments, pension contributions and capital growth. It does not require personal or partnership guarantee, and does not interfere with existing banking arrangements.

The scheme is available from Royal Trust Financial Services, Royal Trust House, 48-50 Cannon Street, London EC4N 8LD.

Four-year guarantee

A guaranteed bonus bond which gives investors an annual bonus of between 9.5 per cent and 10 per cent net of basic rate tax according to the size of the investment, is being offered by Providence Capital. It may either be cashed in to give an annual income, or left to accrue to give a guaranteed capital growth at the end of the four-year investment period. Both the annual income and the capital growth are tax-free to basic rate taxpayers.

Investors taking the annual income option are guaranteed the return of their original investment after four years. The minimum investment is £1,500.

For investors taking the capital growth option, the guaranteed capital sum returned after four years is for investments between £1,500 and £4,999, £1,438 per £1,000 invested; for investments between £5,000 and £9,999, £1,453 per £1,000 invested; for

Investments of £10,000 or more, £1,484 per £1,000 invested. Details available from Providence Capital Life Assurance, Tel 01-749 8111.

Cheshire's Champion

Cheshire Building Society is paying 9.25 per cent on its new Champion Bond, with 80 days notice of withdrawal. Nationwide is paying the same rate, 9.25 per cent, on a new Bonus 90 account which requires you to give 90 days notice of withdrawal with a minimum investment of £500 or £3,000 if you want to take monthly income.

A 'bonus' account

Nationwide Building Society is introducing a new 90-day investment account from next Wednesday. The new account - Bonus-90-offers 9.25 per cent out of basic rate tax, which is 1.5 per cent above the basic Ordinary Share rate.

Withdrawals will be available at the loss of 90 days' interest. Minimum investment will be £500.

Monthly income will be available to investors with balances above £3,000 and the 90-day penalty will be waived on withdrawals from accounts which continue to maintain a balance above £10,000.

Minster fund

Anyone wanting to make a donation to the York Minster Restoration Fund should go to their Leeds Permanent Building Society branch where a special account has been opened.

The York Minster Restoration Fund account number is 1000267480 and is available at any one of the Leeds 470 branches. A spokesman for the Leeds said: "The total collected nationally will be passed to the York Minster Fund on closure of the account, plus interest of course."

VALUES



The Swanns: value of stamps halved

Stamps-investment
that turned sour

Never invest money in something you don't understand - that seems to be the moral to be drawn from the sale of The Times readers Mr Tony Swann and his wife Winifred.

In 1980, when they were living overseas they bought a portfolio of stamps for investment from Stanley Gibbons, for £3,000. They had seen a series of advertisements in national newspapers by Stanley Gibbons and a number of other firms extolling the virtues of stamps as alternative investment.

But four years later their stamps according to Stanley Gibbons are worth only about half what they paid for them. "I can hardly believe it," said Mr Swann.

She said: "The brochure we received said that stamps have been appreciating by 20 or 25 per cent a year. It also said that Stanley Gibbons might buy them back. I presumed this meant it would do so at more or less the same price as we paid for them. But we have had valuations from the firm each year and the value has sunk lower. Now apparently they are worth just half of what we paid originally".

Last December, Stanley Gibbons wrote the Swanns a letter which said: "The expected resale value at this time is £1,590".

The letter also said that this meant the Swanns had to consider holding on to their stamps for at least another three to five years.

Experts say that what has happened to the Swanns is typical of what has happened to a lot of small investors.

When the Swanns bought their stamps they did not know and nobody told them that it would take a rise of 30 or 40 per cent in stamps' value before they even broke even on the

deal, let alone were able to sell their stamps for a profit.

In fact, in the first 12 months, the value of their stamps seem to have actually risen. Yet they would still, not realize more than £2,100 from reselling them, £900 less than they originally paid. Stanley Gibbons wrote them a letter in October 1981, a year after they bought, which said, "The six items are currently insured for a sum of £3,175. This is the price we would sell them at now you were buying them at this time. The current market price, what you would expect to realize on the sale would be considerably less, approximately £2,100".

In other words, Stanley Gibbons' mark-up when the Swanns bought their stamps appears to have been about 50 per cent. So even before stamp values started to fall, the Swanns had effectively lost a third of their money. "Margins of up to 40 per cent are quite normal in the stamp trade," says Mr Reg Atkinson, at Stanley Gibbons who sold them the stamps in the first place.

"That is why we say in our brochure that people should be prepared to hold on to their stamps for at least five years to see a good return. I am sure we explained this to the Swanns at the time. But obviously we do not go around telling people what our profit margins are - who does?"

Mr Atkinson said that there were dealers who undercut Stanley Gibbons' catalogue prices which were the prices at which the Swanns bought but cannot sell.

The point is, however, that the convention of buying and selling in the stamp trade makes stamps a particularly unsuitable and expensive form of investment for anyone who is not primarily a collector.

Margaret Drummond

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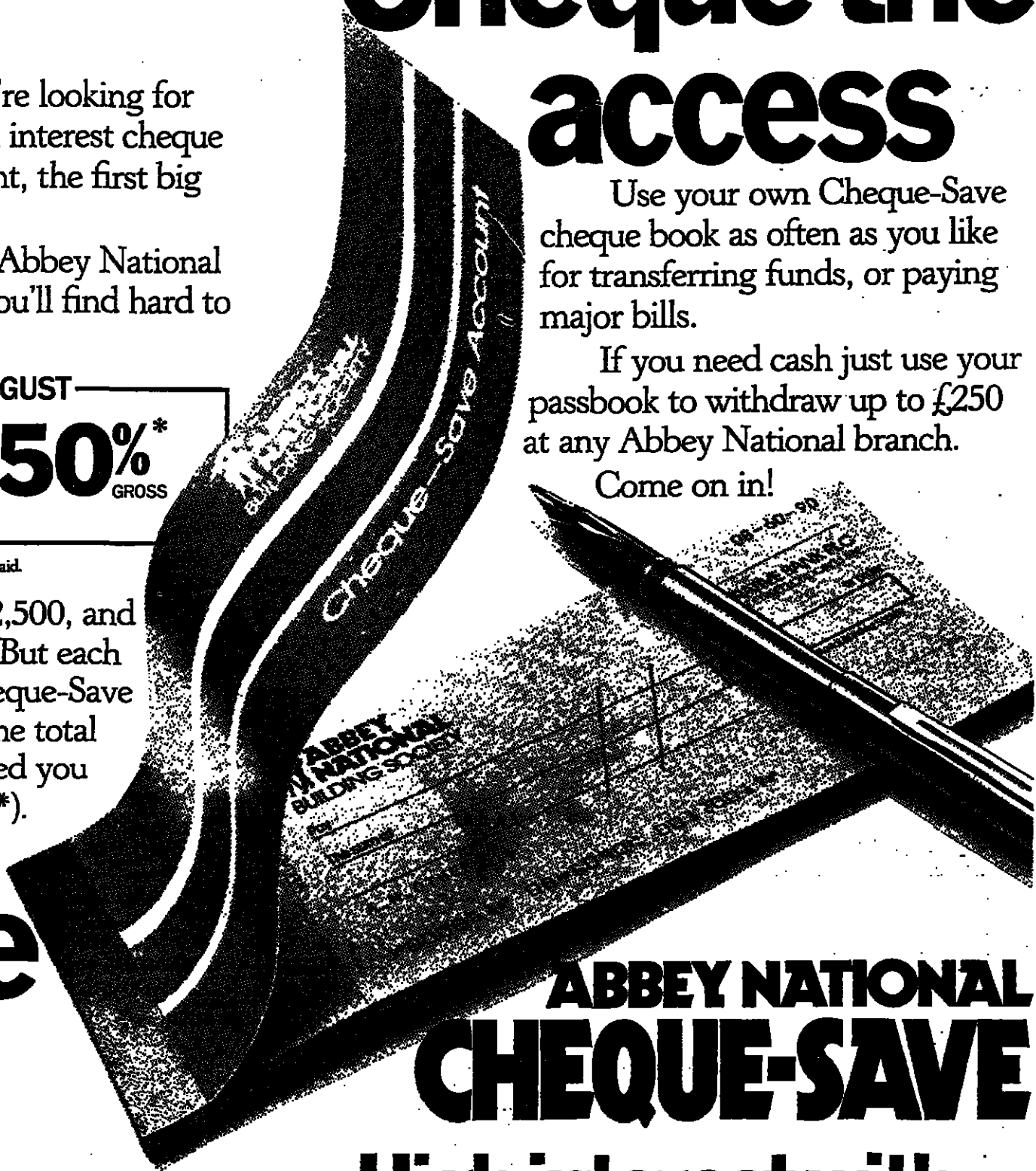
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Taking the last 12 months earnings, the shares in Jaguar are being sold on a multiple of 6.9 times earnings, which is not very demanding. The indicated yield is 6.7 per cent.

Copies of the offer for sale and application forms can be obtained from Hill Samuel, from brokers Cazenove and Laing & Cruickshank, and from Barclays Bank in Farringdon Street, London and several provincial branches.

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Lorna Bourke

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and £500 worth of French franc travellers cheques.

The rates on offer varied by 0.11 francs for £1 or about £6 for the whole (1 per cent of the £600), while the overall charges

Midland to £7.50 at Lloyds.

Credit Lyonnais was unable to supply information about the rates of exchange in its branches in France but its London branches all offered discount

the buying and selling price, whereas the Regent Street branch was using a 0.42 franc spread. So the City branch was selling francs more cheaply and offering a better rate to the

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THE ~~NEW~~ TIMES
Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND	WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£2,000	£20,000
Claims required for +36 points	Claims required for +142 points

[illegible]

25	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
26	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
27	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
28	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
29	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
30	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
31	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
32	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
33	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
34	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
35	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
36	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
37	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
38	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
39	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
40	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
41	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
42	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
43	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
44	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
45	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
46	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
47	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
48	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
49	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
50	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
51	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
52	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
53	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
54	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
55	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
56	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
57	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
58	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
59	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
60	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
61	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
62	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
63	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
64	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
65	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
66	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
67	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
68	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
69	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
70	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
71	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
72	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
73	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
74	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
75	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
76	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
77	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
78	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
79	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
80	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
81	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
82	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
83	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
84	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
85	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
86	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1
87	Chemical	51	-1	2.4	5.5	2.1

[illegible][illegible]

29	Control	41	4.5	11.0	7.8
30	Country & New	41	5.5	13.0	29.0
31	Country	41	5.5	13.0	29.0
32	Cumulative	240	36	33	143
33	Dance	36	17.8	38	100
34	Dance	36	17.8	38	100
35	Easy-Listen	35	13	19.2	7.1
36	Easy-Listen	35	5.5	16.8	12.2
37	Easy-Listen	35	5.5	16.8	12.2
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100	Deacons	21	0	0	10.4	6.5	10.8

* Dividend. * Exch. * Forecast. * Liquidated. * Corrected.
* Interest payment passed. * Price at suspension. *
* Since adj. yield includes a special payment. * Bid for
* penny. * Pre-emptive. * Forward. * Forecast earnings. * Ex
* dist. distribution. * Ex rate. * Corp or share split. * T
* us. * Price adjusted for late dealings. No significant

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has declined by 100 million. The number of people who are malnourished has declined by 150 million. The number of people who are underweight has declined by 150 million. The number of people who are overweight has declined by 150 million. The number of people who are obese has declined by 150 million. The number of people who are undernourished, malnourished, underweight, overweight, and obese has declined by 150 million.

**Mrs C
ben**

Los Angeles awaits the spectacular

On with the show that should run and run

Will there be another Olympic Games after Los Angeles? There are those who believe that these twenty-third Olympics, opening today in front of President Reagan, will prove to have been so bedeviled by political boycott, excessive finance, shameless professionalism, acknowledged pro-drug-taking, security against terrorism, immovable traffic and insufferable smog that future Games will be in jeopardy. They will be proved wrong, I hope spectacularly so.

Of course, most of those obstacles will not go away. Yet the strength of the Olympic movement is the fact that it will survive them all into the next century, always providing the absence of major world disasters. It will survive because of the 7,000 competitors who just want to be there, almost anonymously, rather than because of the few hundred who will win medals, even though it is they who create the image of immortal glory.

Significantly, an unprecedented number of people have lined city streets and country roads across the breadth of America to catch a glimpse of the controversial but emotive and symbolic torch relay.

A television audience of 2.5 billion will watch a record 140 nations march into the Coliseum. Ueberroth, the California businessman who has master-minded a privately organized and financed event unique in Olympic history, rightly says:

"The focus is now where it belongs — on the athletes. The superpowers have learnt that boycotts achieve nothing, except hurting the [absent] athletes." He, the IOC president, Juan Samaranch, can take satisfaction in staging a record Games on five per cent of what was spent by Moscow.

What amazed her colleagues on the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) was not so much the "revelations" which have led to at least one athlete mentioned considering legal action, as that Miss Hartman should be induced to make them at this stage of her career.

If Miss Hartman's actions have shocked officials, then the news that Mary Peters, Pam Plater and Nick Whitehead will be leaving British team management after these Olympics has saddened the athletes. Miss Peters, the 1972 Olympic pentathlon gold medal winner, and her co-management colleagues were appointed in 1979 along with Lynn Davies, the 1964 Olympic long jump champion, at the instigation of David Shaw, the first professional secretary of the BAAB.

Their accessibility and recognition of athletes' problems have been much appreciated.

The quietest was, however, not without opposition, from officials who saw their free time being put in jeopardy. But with Andy Norman, the current English team manager, whose influence in the sport extends far beyond that of his administrative duties, in the post, Miss Hartman's job as head of British team management, the likelihood is that the new breed of athletics officials who have much closer contact with the athletes, will remain in accordance. Davies has yet to decide whether he will stay on.

The final complement of athletes, including Steve Cram, will arrive in the next few days. Then everyone will get the opportunity of some final pre-Olympic competition at a meeting here on Monday, arranged by Frank Dick, the director of British coaching, who has invited American and Soviet members of the French and Italian teams, who are also staying nearby.

Peter Elliott, who considers that his poor performance in Oslo last summer was due to a lack of racing at 800 metres, his Olympic distance, will be the principal interest and it is hoped that Steve Scott of the United States, one of the 1,500 metres favourites, will run against him.

thanks in part to 50,000 volunteers in a staff of 7,000.

The fact that Seoul, in South Korea, is at this moment ready for the next Games, and that countries are queuing to be hosts in 1992, 1996, and 2000 suggest that the prophets of doom, as in religion, may have jumped the gun. David Wolper's opening ceremony, with a Hollywood-style extravaganza of dancing and music, including 84 grand pianos on wheels and 750 youngsters in the All American Olympic Marching Band — in contrast to Moscow's memorable and militarily-precise gymnastics — will be the prelude to a Games expected to produce historic achievements even without the Soviet bloc.

Beefed-up vigilance

The over-riding fear must be that a psychopath, such as recently slaughtered innocents in San Diego, will blight the show, but security currently makes this the best protected city on earth. Over terrorism would seem impossible, though Ueberroth admits: "Many thousands of dollars per athlete have been spent, we've given every time the security organisations wanted, but the threat will not be diminished in our lifetime."

Seven thousand men from forty agencies, almost one man per competitor, working twelve hour shifts, are guarding the competition sites, and the streets. The FBI has doubled its California investigators to eight hundred; Reagan and heads of states will be protected by six hundred guards, and computers will trace any suspect's background in eight seconds. Some 1,800 drugs, vice and crime arrests have been made in three weeks as LA beefs up its vigilance.

Ueberroth denies that the government and state are shouldering hidden costs to the taxpayer, and claims that they will make a new profit on taxes of £170m and £50m respectively.

The Post Office alone has taken £68m on Olympic stamps, many unused, and millions have been spent in sponsored improvement of permanent sporting facilities, only slightly marred by the workman, absent-mindedly engaged in conversation, who has lowered a massive scoreboard straight through the forum floor at the basketball site. Repairs are busy.

Smog and traffic remain imponderable; the police are sweating in every sense. This week's refreshing winds have stilled: Thursday's pollution count at the Coliseum was 83 on a scale in which 100 is good and 300 means reach for the masks and postpone the marathon. Conditions are expected to deteriorate today with temperatures rising over 90, and much depends on spectator traffic density. Eighty per cent of firms have co-operated by reducing working hours, two hundred thousand reservations have already been made for part-n-rider bus shuttles to the Coliseum; vicinity parking exploitation, up to £270 a day for a normal £150 plot, should deter all but the Beverly Hills elite.

So what, finally, of the sport. That remains partially clouded by drugs, in spite of the new UCLA testing laboratory passed 100 per cent efficient by the IOC. The US Olympic Committee, started by the Pan American Games scandals, belatedly has introduced random American testing, but Dr. Robert Kerr, one of those said to advise competitors on drug use, is quoted yesterday as claiming that "athletes laugh about it."

I don't know one athlete who's been influenced by it," *Sports Illustrated* magazine has revealed that Dr Paul Ward, a co-ordinator of the USOC athletic throwing events, had known links with Kerr, who says of the expensive human growth hormone drug STH: "This is the elite drug. The really elite athletes are taking STH."

Carl Lewis, who is expected to rise into an everlasting pink cloud of Disneyland fortune when he wins his first gold medal — and will be labelled a failure, by various critics if he does not — took a random test to dispel rumours of drug-taking. He has also emphatically denied being homosexual. The most dramatic event of the entire Games would be not so much his emulation of Jesse Owens' feat in Berlin with four golds, as surpassing Bob Beamon's Mexico long-jump record, which still stands at 8.90 metres.

Sprinter without match

No-one on form can match Lewis in the two sprints: Allan Wells will do well to reach the final, and we shall watch with affection for the Jamaican, Don Quarrie, who has sprinted across three decades and currently ranks seventh in the 100 metres. We shall watch in awe as Ed Moses and Zhu Jianhua defend their world records in hurdles and high jump, and millions will hold their breath as they await Sebastian Coe's attempt to cash off the illness of two years and the failure of three championships in the 800 metres. Earl Jones, fastest of the year, is two seconds outside Coe's world record.

It could be an Olympics outstanding for its interest in women. The confrontation between Mary Decker and Zola Budd, possibly challenged by Mariacica Puica, of Romania,

should be riveting, and Joan Benoit, of the United States, must defend her marathon reputation against Grete Waitz and Ingrid Kristiansen, both of Norway. Shirley Strong, of Britain, could win a rare hurdles medal in the absence of the eastern Europeans.

After 30 years campaigning by Eileen Gray, of Britain, the women will have their cycling road race for the first time tomorrow — one more step of emancipation. There is the romantic touch of Paul Elvstrom, four times consecutively gold medalist in sailing, competing with his daughter, for Denmark, in the Tornado class, where Robert White, of Britain, will battle for the title won by his father, Reg 1976.

Britain are looking to three women — Lucinda Green, Virginia Holgate and Diana Clapham — to bring them triumph in the hazardous three-day event, while Julie Croft may take an early gold in swimming. Ecaterina Stabou hopes to continue for Romania where Nadia Comaneci left off in gymnastics, but the men are not without their superstars in those sports away from track and field.

Mark Breland, from Brooklyn, is a welterweight with a record which surpasses the greatest amateurs of all time, said as Papo, Clay and Leonard, has lost only once in 105 contests and the absence of the Soviet Union and allies, who took 37 out of 44 medals in Moscow, should hardly be of assistance to this exceptional performer.

In diving, Tan Liangde, of China, will challenge the unchallengeable Greg Louganis of the United States, and so will Christopher Snodde.

David Miller

Chief Sports Correspondent

About turn scuttles Silvestri

Long Beach, California (Reuters) — The US Olympic committee changed its mind for the sixth time yesterday in a dispute over who represented America in the Fina class. A three-man arbitration panel reinstated John Silvestri in place of Russ Silvestri just five days before racing starts.

The decision needs approval from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). This is considered a formality but there is a chance Silvestri will seek court action to void the latest decision. "My information is the IOC must rule on it, and I've every reason to think they will back the decision," Merrick could not rule out further developments. "This country anyone has the right to go to court to seek redress," he said.

British team leader Mike Evans said that a protest by other Finn sailors was virtually certain. "All is far to late now, and yacht racing," he declared.

Trial 10,000m for women

Los Angeles (Agencies) — The International Olympic Committee decided yesterday to include a women's 10,000 metres event in the programme for the 1984 Olympics in Seoul on a trial basis. Three other events have been added to future Olympic Games permanently: a women's sprint track event in cycling, a women's 470-class dinghy event in yachting, and either a men's lightweight double sculls, or a coxed four in rowing.

Other demands for additional events which were rejected included a women's 10,000 metres walk.

Essex breathe down Middlesex's neck

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The Prudential County Cup competition which should have finished yesterday, will resume at 9.30 this morning at Eastbourne. Wednesday's programme of 543 matches had to be postponed because of rain and there were not enough hours of daylight to cram those extra matches into Thursday's and yesterday's programmes. The championship and relegation issues have yet to be thoroughly sorted out.

The Middlesex men, who have won 36 of the 77 championships, including last year's, are still threatened by Essex, who have won five times from 1976 to 1982. Middlesex beat Essex on Thursday but yesterday Essex stayed on their heels with a 6-3 win over Surrey. Pat Riekin, paired with Robin Drysdale, won the decisive point with an ace against Jeremy Bates and John Pugh.

Surrey are now confronted by the possibility of relegation, which is a rather undignified prospect for a county who have won the championship more often than any other except Middlesex. Today Middlesex play Surrey, and for different reasons, both need to win. There could hardly be a more dramatic climax.

The Middlesex senior pair, Pat Hughesman and Richard Lewis, won all their 15 matches last year and have been as effective this time. Almost, but not quite. They have a knack, though, of winning the most important matches. In the final of the Prudential County Cup, (Thursday's match), Group One (Kentishbanke) Surrey beat Warwickshire 3-2. Group Two (Prudential) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Three (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Four (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Five (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Six (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Seven (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Eight (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Nine (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Ten (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Eleven (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Twelve (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Thirteen (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Fourteen (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. Group Fifteen (Essex) Essex beat Middlesex 3-2. 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By SYDNEY: Pam Shriver, criticised for her performance after the Czech girl's charge, dismissed her final of the Australian Indoor Championship (AP reports). After taking an hour to win 6-3, 6-2, Miss Shriver said: "My opponent was playing when someone doesn't give their best effort and there are a few of losing a match. I know that Hana is tired but so are the others and I think her performance was a shame."

Miss Mandikova, who claimed that lack of concentration was one of the reasons for her disappointing defeat, said: "I don't think my opponent was as good as she was in the past. I think her performance was a shame."

James Hartley and Ian Tillett, promising young sailors from Lichem, Sussex, won a rugged final race of the international 14-foot dinghy class, the Tyrone Trophy, yesterday. They led all the way round the course in a blustery westerly breeze that eliminated half of the original 43 starters.

By the fourth round in the race, Will Henderson and Bruce Grant made sure of winning the points trophy that they led in from the second day. This was their equal lowest place in the six races sailed. At one stage yesterday it looked as if Henderson's points lead might be cut back, because both Roger Yeoman and the Kidd brothers from Canada, his closest contenders, were ahead. Yeoman was placed second in the last round, and then lost a place to Jeremy Sibbop.

Meanwhile, both Henderson and the Kidds capsized during a particularly vicious squall on the third round, but Henderson and Grant quickly righted their boat, only losing three places during the process. With the Kidds eliminating themselves from the points trophy, even if they were to win, they persevered and eventually won back the places they had lost.

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Isolation threatens after refusal to toe the hard line

From David Miller, Los Angeles

هكذا من الأدب

American is accused of plot to kill shaikh

By Stewart Tandler

An American businessman convicted of an arms offence in London last year has now been charged in Washington with attempting to smuggle a machine gun into Britain to assassinate a member of the Saudi royal family. A Saudi businessman has also been accused.

Mr Walter Reed Martindale, aged 41, has been accused of going to London last year to kill Shaikh Mohammed Al-Fassi, an often controversial member of the Saudi royal family. Mr Ibrahim Al-Rawaf, a Saudi businessman, is accused of offering \$400,000 (£30,000) to the American to carry out the assassination.

Mr Martindale, a former member of the State Department's Agency for International Development in Vietnam, at one time worked in the Far East on refugee problems.

In November he was fined £1,600 at Haringey Magistrates Court after an Uzi sub-machine gun and a Smith and Wesson revolver were discovered in a case left with a former Vietnamese soldier.

The refugee living in north London, told police that Mr Martindale had asked him to keep watch on a man about whom he was given information and photographs. After being left with the case, the refugee called the police.

Airman cleared of passing Nato secrets

continued from page 1

Jaafar, aged 31, whom he met in Cyprus, Mrs Jaafar, Hungarian by birth and married to a Lebanese, was alleged to have extracted secrets with sex or threats to reveal the relationship to her husband.

The Crown case was based on confessions the airman was said to have made to RAF police initially investigating thefts and in a letter he wrote to his mother which was intercepted.

This week Mrs Jaafar defended the airman and her reputation. She gave evidence and was cross examined for more than three hours.

Hollywood's odd man out dies

By Rupert Morris

James Mason was better looking than most Hollywood stars, he was British and he had plenty of charm.

But like Basil Rathbone, whose fate it was to be repeatedly killed by Errol Flynn, he found that his handsomeness was of a type not regarded as acceptable for the celluloid hero of the day.

He seemed too smooth, not only in his usually well-groomed appearance, but above all in his way of speaking.

Born in Huddersfield, the third son of a cloth merchant, he was educated at Marlborough and Cambridge. That helped to give him the background of the perfect English gentleman, an image he had little difficulty in living up to.

On film, however, his dark good looks and elegantly liquid voice combined to give him an air of menace that marked him out as the perfect villain.

He made his name after the Second World War in films where he combined a magnetic personality with a cruel streak. In *The Man in Grey* he horsewhipped Margaret Lockwood, and in *The Seventh Veil* he used his cane to smash the fingers of Ann Todd, the concert pianist.

Although apparently well qualified to play a British wartime hero, he became famous for his portrayal of Rommel in *The Desert Fox*.

Having acquired a substantial female following in his early films, James Mason failed to become a front-rank star, and began to distance himself from the Hollywood ethos.

His growing disillusion with Hollywood and the star system coincided with one of his best films: George Cukor's *A Star is Born*, in 1954, where he played opposite Judy Garland as an actor lapsing into alcoholism.

In later life, married for the second time to the Australian actress Clarissa Kaye, and living in Switzerland, he was damned about certain Hollywood stars.

Among outstanding film roles was the love-struck Humbert Humbert in Stanley Kubrick's *Lotha*. More recently he won great critical applause for his Dr Watson in *Murder by Decree*.

In spite of his frequently sadistic film roles, James Mason was a pacifist, and registered as a conscientious objector in the Second World War; he abhorred cruelty to animals.

His first marriage was in 1946 to Pamela Kellino, by whom he had two children.

This autumn he can be seen on BBC television in the title role in *Dr Fischer of Geneva*, by Graham Greene. As a special tribute, Channel Four is to show the *Seventh Veil* this Sunday in place of *Dante's Inferno*.

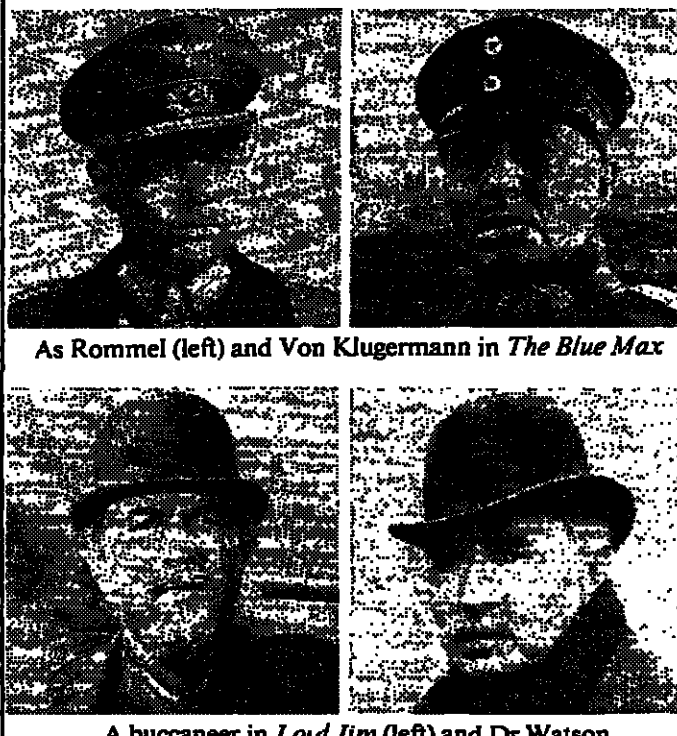
Obituary, page 10



James Mason on a visit to London



A distraught moment in *Odd Man Out*



As Rommel (left) and Von Klugermann in *The Blue Max*

Fury at Europe's budget challenge

Continued from page 1

The Strasbourg decision provoked choleric sounds both in Whitehall and at Westminster, and dispelled the pale sunshine that the Prime Minister brought back from Fontainebleau a month ago.

Mr Rippon, the senior Conservative European at Westminster, said the new European Parliament was off to a wretched start in undermining the progress made at Fontainebleau. "In the process it wrecks its own prospects of achieving any real influence or authority in the years immediately ahead."

The Government's hard line was roundly condemned by Mr Robin Cook, Labour's spokesman on European affairs.

He called on the Prime Minister to do two things: withhold British contributions to the Community to make up the rebate, and challenge the legality of the Parliament's decision in the European Court.

In ministers' breasts yesterday indignation seemed to vie for expression with apparently confident claims that the rebate is sure to be paid sooner or later.

Criticism was carefully directed away from other member countries' governments, all of whom were pledged to make the payment, and against the Parliament alone. Mr Dainton, in failing to sign authorization of the payment, was accused privately by British officials of remarkable carelessness or, more probably, ill-will.

Mr Rifkind, speaking on BBC radio, said the president and some members of the Parliament had abused their own procedures. The Parliament had behaved in an intolerable way, but all the member governments had so far honoured their obligations.

Asked if the Parliament's behaviour was lawful, he said it was obviously something which must be looked at. Something might be technically legal but quite contrary to all the basic rules of national justice.

If there was advice that the Parliament had contravened the Treaty of Rome or its legal obligations, taking it to the European Court would be an option, he said.

Letter from Warsaw

Taking liberties with freedom

Almost everything going by the name of pleasure, George Orwell once remarked, represents a more or less successful attempt to destroy consciousness. Down in Praga, the thieves' kitchen of Warsaw, they take that kind of advice very seriously indeed. Happiness is a bottle of Wyborowa Vodka; oblivion is just around the corner.

The celebrations have been going on non-stop in the long courtyards and the maze of streets around the Bazar Rozyckiego as the main beneficiaries of last weekend's amnesty gather to celebrate their good fortune. Most of the criminal crafts are represented: the muggers, the get-away drivers, the safe crackers, the burglars, the look-outs, the messengers and the receivers.

Forty per cent of the Polish prison population has been freed - some 35,000 common criminals. The murderers have generally been kept inside, as have gang rapists but, as a Justice Ministry spokesman has delicately expressed it, the odd lucky individual rapist has been released.

The alcohol may be flowing in Praga, but across the Vistula in the more comfortable suburbs of Mokotow and Zoliborz there is fear in the air. Residents have been installing window grilles and the local newspaper *Zycie Warszawy* is doing a fast trade in classified ads for burglar alarms. Private entrepreneurs are offering to install complete security systems in villas and even sensitive intellectuals can be seen huddled in the corner of cocktail parties discussing the price of Alsatian dogs.

The amnesty, of course, also freed the country's political prisoners but, as the neighbourhood of a colleague said this week, "it's not going to be Jack Kuron breaking into our house, is it?" The Polish crime rate is still below that of the US or Britain, but there are disturbing trends.

Despite martial law, the number of crimes, especially violent ones, has been increasing. In 1982 there were 250 murders; last year there were 304. The legal weekly *Pravo i Zycie* (Law and Life) gives us the details of the cases and

spares not a drop of blood nor severed limb. A young woman recently battered her nagging mother to death with a frying pan, dragged her into the bathroom, cut the body into small, manageable fragments, put the pieces into a travelling bag and left it on the balcony for a few weeks. Rapes have also become more frequent: 871 in 1982 but 1,055 in 1983.

The overall number of crimes a year has now reached 466,000, a total of 30,000 over 1982. But most of this increase has come from the wave of burglaries and thefts. As the zloty has lost its value, so both organized and casual gangs have been working out ways of stealing Western currency or precious objects.

One obvious method is to comb through the "for sale" columns of local newspapers, pinpoint a likely target and pretend to be a potential customer. A woman who advertised a fur coat for sale was killed in this way not so long ago. In the Mazury lake district gangs of teenagers break into dachas and weekend cottages which are empty for much of the autumn and winter.

The penal code has been tightened up since martial law was declared in December 1981, and not just for likely political offenders. An anti-parasitism law is supposed to give the police power to register and ultimately send to forced labour units any able-bodied male without a stamp from his employer in his identity card.

The result has been twofold, first there is now an active black market trade in false employment papers and secondly women, exempt from the law, are more active in the criminal community.

Lawyers are sometimes quoted in the official press as saying that the crime wave stems from the breakdown in authority that came with the Solidarity revolution in 1980-81. Solidarity sympathizers say that the police have been too busy chasing their own shadows, trying to "detect" political offenders.

In Praga, they have no theories at all: only swagbags waiting to be filled just as soon as those hangers wear off.

Roger Boyes

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution of Puzzle No 16,488

DOWN
1 Take too many paintings? Hard for engraver (7)
2 Artist gets small amount in fierce competition (3,4)
3 Very surprised at various times (9)
4 Preoccupation of slim girl initially (3)
5 Rebel borders from the Victory (5)
6 Former class includes one, it's clear (9)
7 Party leader as regular presenter of bill (6-8)
8 Is material endlessly processed in this plant? (9)
9 Fabric in vehicle leaving Northern town (5)
10 Money, commonly with a hole in it (5)
11 The accused power which stands on — (Belloc) (9)
12 Cuts out some unspecified part of Italy (7)
13 Poinstaking collector is, in general, eccentric (7)

Solution of Puzzle No 16,493

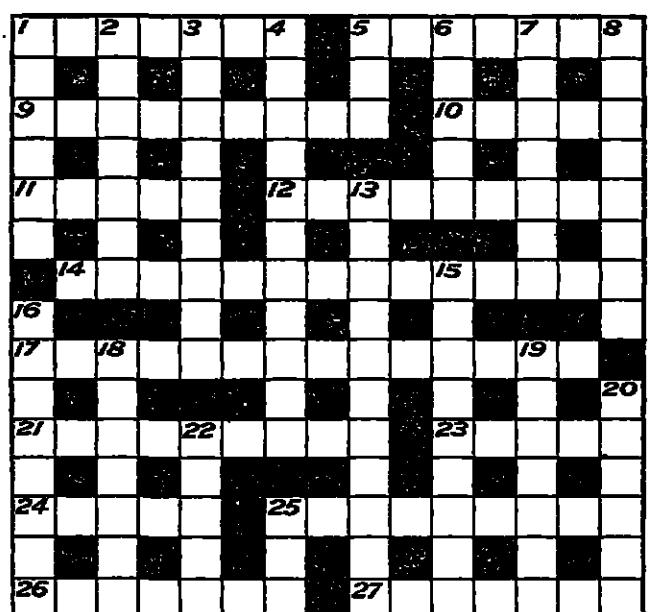
DOWN
1 Deceives a number — sharp's the word (6)
2 Alpine flower (7)
3 Correct cards one plays after this opponent (5-4)
4 Household troops mount sentries (5,6)
5 One who fishes for perch (3)
6 Book such as "Lord Jim" (5)
7 Ball out a scholar associated with scores of thieves (3,4)
8 Intellectual given the chop on the board? (8)
9 Insignificant and minute? (5-4)
10 Parisian is swallowing vessel's contents with French delicacy (8)
11 Naive as Eliza's view of Higgins, say (7)
12 Records top ten, including one British sculptor (7)
13 Man to tolerate Kipling's less deadly Himalayan beast (2-4)
14 Means to organize group of (8)
15 Impertinently investigate odd members of party (3)

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,494

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9N 9YT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mrs D. C. Tanton, Woodland Cottage, Ave, Newnham, Gloucester, GL14 1EP; M. D. Baker, 199 Burgess Road, Southampton; M. D. E. Ingham, 56 Chantry Road, Moseley, Birmingham.

Name: _____ Address: _____



- ACROSS
- 1 Take too many paintings? Hard for engraver (7)
 - 2 Artist gets small amount in fierce competition (3,4)
 - 3 Very surprised at various times (9)
 - 4 Preoccupation of slim girl initially (3)
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CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 16

Today's events

New exhibitions
Paintings by Andrew MacLaren, Linton Court Gallery, Duke St, Settle, N Yorks; Tues, Fri and Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, (ends Aug 26).

Action portraits, Scottish Press Photographs, MacLaren Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, (ends Aug 25).

Stitches in time, golden jubilee of the Yorkshire branch of the Embroiderers' Guild, Cliffe Castle, Spring, Cliffe Lane, Kettlewell; Tues to Sun 10 to 6, (ends Sept 9).

Norwich "20" Group, Halesworth Gallery, Steeple End, Halesworth, Suffolk; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 3 to 6, (ends Aug 10).

Prints and drawings by Sickert and his contemporaries, Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, Bradford; Tues to Sun 10 to 6, (ends Sept 30).

Julia Margaret Cameron 1815-1879, Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10 to 5, (ends Sept 2).

Music
Concert by Hallé Orchestra Soloists, Richard and Janet Simpson (oboe and harpsichord), St John's Church, Hipswell, Catterick, Talk.

The Winchester Benedictees and their books, by Murray Davison, New Hall, Winchester, 2.30.

General
Cleveland County Agricultural and Horticultural Show, Stewart Park, Ludgate Lane, Middlesbrough, 9.

Brighton Racecourse Antiques and Collectors Fair, 11 to 5.

Tomorrow
Dawlish Regatta, Sea Front, Devon.

Elephant Fair, Port Elliot Estate, St Germans, Saltash, Cornwall, 11.

Bristol Harbour Regatta, City Docks, 12 to 6.

British Motorcross Championships, Higher Kettlewell, N Yorks, Devon, 1.

Shuttleworth Collection Military Air Pageant, Old Warden Aerodrome, Biggleswade, Beds, 11.

Anniversaries
Birth: Gerard Manley Hopkins, Stratford, Essex, 1844; Beatrix Potter, London, 1866; Maurice Duchamp, artist, Blainville, France, 1887; Death: Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, executed, Tower Hill, London, 1540; Abraham Cowley, poet, Chertsey, Surrey, 1667; Anthony Vivaldi, Venetian, 1741; Johann Sebastian Bach, Leipzig, 1750; Maximilian de Robespierre, executed, Paris, 1794; Otto Hahn, chemist, pioneer of nuclear fission, Nobel laureate 1944; Göttingen, Germany, 1968; Sir Moses Montefiore, Ramsgate, 1885.

TOMORROW
Birth: Alexis Charles de Tocqueville, historian, author of *Democracy in America*, Paris, 1805; Death: William Wilberforce, London, 1833; Robert Schumann, Endenich, Germany, 1856; Vincent van Gogh, committed suicide, Auvers-sur-Oise, 1890; Gordon Craig, actor, director and designer, Venice, 1966. The Spanish Armada was routed, 1588.

In the garden

This is a good time to root cuttings of many kinds of plants. Hydrangeas, geraniums (pelargoniums), fuchsias, calceolarias, white marguerites all root easily now in a mix of half peat, half sharp sand in pots or boxes, covered with a plastic bag.

Cuttings of young growths of perennial alyssum, arabis and aubretias root well now. Many shrubs also root well at this time; use semi ripe shoots, preferably with a "heel", that is a piece of the old wood still attached to the base of a side shoot when it is pulled off the main stem. Trim off the silver of bark, dip the base of the cutting in a rooting compound and insert in pots or boxes as above, or in a shaded cold frame.

Cuttings of heathers about 2in long root well now. So do those of brooms — varieties of cygnus and anemita, but it is wise to take several batches of cuttings at say 7 to 10 day intervals. If they are too hard they may take many weeks to root.

REH

Gardens open

2 — Plants for sale.
TOWNSEND'S: King's College Fellow Garden, Queen's Road, Cambridge. Fine collection of plants, shrubs, trees, ferns, etc. Open 10 to 5, 7 to 10, 11 to 12. Tel: 336111.
UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER: Botanic Garden, Leicestershire Road, Leicester. Open 10 to 5, 7 to 10, 11 to 12. Tel: 336111.
COLLEGE GARDENS: Garden, entered from the main road, Leicestershire Road, Leicester. Open 10 to 5, 7 to 10, 11 to 12. Tel: 336111.
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Roads

Midlands: M6 5-bound carriageway will be closed between 12pm and early evening on Saturday between junction 4 (Bromsgrove) and junction 5 (Worcester). Diversion: M6 4-bound carriageway. M6 5-bound carriageway will be closed between junction 3 (Coseley) and junction 4 (Bromsgrove) on Saturday. M6 4-bound carriageway will be closed between junction 3 (Coseley) and junction 4 (Bromsgrove) on Saturday. M6 4-bound carriageway will be closed between junction 3 (Coseley) and junction 4 (Bromsgrove) on Saturday.

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